





"Labor Omnia Vincit."

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL

IRISH TRADES * * CONGRESS

REPORT

HELD IN

THE TOWN HALL, SLIGO,

MAY 27th, 28th and 29th, 1901.



Published by authority of the Parliamentary

Committee.





J. Kivlehan

F. Gallagher, P. J. Farrell, Hon. Sec.

President

H. Rielly, Hon. Treasurer

W. Costello

REPORT

OF THE

EIGHTH

Irish Trades Anion Congress

HELD IN THE

TOWN HALL, SLIGO,

ON

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY,

27TH, 28TH, AND 29TH MAY, 1901.



Published by Authority of the Congress and the Parliamentary Committee.

Dublin :

PRINTED BY JAMES O'DONOGHUE, 14 CROW STREET, ON IRISH-MANUFACTURED PAPER.

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JAMES McCarron, T.C., Derry. Wm. Liddell, T.C., Belfast.

W. J. Leahy, T.C., Dublin.

SECRETARY.

E. L. RICHARDSON, 7 MELROSE AVENUE, FAIRVIEW, DUBLIN

(To whom all Communications should be addressed).

-XREPORT.X

FIRST DAY.

The Eighth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress opened on Monday, May 27th, 1901, in the Town Hall, Sligo, which was placed at the disposal of the local Reception Committee through the kind-

ness of the Mayor (Alderman Foley) and the Corporation.

On their arrival in town, the Delegates were cordially greeted by the local Reception Committee, which consisted of Messrs. P. J. Farrell (President, Sligo Trades Council), Henry Rielly, (Vice-President), James Kivlehen, J. Clancy, William Costelloe, John

Dykes, C. Harte, and F. F. Gallagher, Hon. Sec.

Previous to the opening of the proceedings, the Mayor of Sligo (Alderman Foley), wearing his chain of office, accompanied by the following members of the Corporation—Alderman John Connolly, J.P.; Alderman Thomas M'Carrick, Alderman Kenan, Councillors B. Collery, ex-M.P.; J. Duffy, P. Maguire, Michael Keane, John Finan, Martin Waters, C. Connolly, B. M'Ternan, and T. Flanagan, entered the Town Hall and took their seats on the platform amid loud applause.

Mr. John Simmons (Dublin), Vice-President of the Congress,

occupied the Chair at the inaugural proceedings.

Mr. Simmons said that he, as Vice-President, had been asked to open the proceedings of the Congress. He was proud to welcome the delegates to their Irish Trades Union Congress. When, eight years ago, it came into the minds of some of the trade unionists of Ireland to inaugurate and initiate an Irish Trades Union Congress, various pessimists at that period were of the opinion that the efforts of the promoters would result in failure. Later on in the day, when the delegates would have assembled in force, their presence would prove a sufficient answer to those pessimists and show that their views were inopportune and that the Irish Trades Union Congress has been a success. It would be necessary to remind some of the delegates of the origin of the Congress. Eight years ago Irish trade unionists were practically denied representation in the British Trades Congress. During the time trades councils had liberty to be represented, most of the Congresses were held in England, at remote places, and the last Congress at which they were admitted to repre-

sentation was held at Norwich. Though they laboured under great difficulties, they were willing to attend the British Trades Congress, not because they admired going to England, but because, as Irish trade unionists, they desired to hold out the hand of friendship to their English brothers across the water. The representatives of the Scotch Trades Congress, who would be present later on, would bear him out in saving that it was these circumstances which had driven them to establish the Scotch Congress, which had been just as successful as the Irish Trades Congress. He had no hesitation in saying that if the gentlemen who had forced Irish and Scotch trade unionists to establish their own Congresses were aware of the success which had since followed these undertakings they would have been very slow to drive Irish and Scotch workers from the fold. Some gentlemen had a feeling of hesitation about holding the Congress in Sligo, but Sligo had come to the front just as well as any other town. The Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee had informed him that Sligo was more than well represented; and the Congress which they were about to hold, he was sure, would be as successful as the initial Congress held in the city of Dublin. He was proud to see the Mayor of Sligo present in his official capacity to welcome the various delegates from all parts of Ireland, and he called upon his worship to say a few words.

His worship, the MAYOR, was received with loud applause. He said: -Mr. President and Delegates of the Irish Trades Union Congress—It gives me great pleasure, in my position as the representative of the inhabitants of this ancient borough of Sligo, in my official capacity as Mayor, to welcome to this historic borough the representatives of the trades of Ireland. While it is to me a source of regret that Sligo is not a manufacturing centre, I look with hope to the future. The advent of the Irish Trades Union Congress to our town will, I trust, stimulate and help to promote those industries for which the town of Sligo is so favourably situated. From its means of communication, this old and historic town is in a position to place on the market, through the leading ports of the United Kingdom. the products of the labour of its sons and daughters in competition with the enterprising energy of any other business centre of the world. It is to be hoped that the trained intelligence and handicraftsmanship of the people of Sligo and of the West of Ireland will be found at all times able to compete, as I believe they will, with that of any other part of the world. Gentlemen, I expect that the advent of the Irish Trades Congress delegates for the purpose of holding your Conference in Sligo will help to further the best interests of the people of the West. The greater the power of your organisation the greater your scope for good and evil. You can further an industry or you can kill it. Speaking from what I have myself seen, there are many industries in this country that, by encouragement and fostering care, could be made most successful. I need not point out to you that such success would mean increased labour, skilled and unskilled. I trust that your deliberations will help to promote and place in the forefront many of those industries

which, for reasons I need not specify, have not been as successful as they ought to have been. Your organisations are very powerful. Their great advantages I need not dilate upon. As a commercial man myself, and as Mayor of Sligo (a position I am more than proud to occupy), may I point out to you that the greater the power exercised the greater are your responsibilities. I trust, therefore, that as one result of your deliberations industries may spring up and flourish in our midst (hear, hear). Gentlemen, I sincerely hope that you will take advantage of your presence in this town, which you have honoured by selecting for your meeting-place this year, to witness during your leisure moments the many charms of the town and surrounding districts, including beauteous Lough Gill, Hazlewood (one of the finest sylvan retreats in the world), Lissadell, Rosses Point, and Glencar, and whilst at the last-mentioned place, should the direction of the wind be favourable, you will have an opportunity of seeing what can only be seen in one other place in the world, the famous srun in airdh, or the water going against the hill. In conclusion, gentlemen, let me again say that I welcome you to Sligo, and I hope that the town will in the near future be again the place

selected for the assembling of your Congress (applause).

Councillor Collery, ex-M.P., said he joined heartily with their worthy Mayor in according a hearty welcome to the delegates to Sligo, and to thank them for having honoured Sligo by their presence on this occasion (hear, hear). He looked upon their advent to Sligo as an important event, as he believed it was likely to lead to an important movement, and to a revival, probably, of trade in their district. A great deal had been done for many years past by agitation in Ireland. He believed that by agitation they could wring from an unwilling Government anything that they desired (hear, hear). believed that meetings such as that, and well-organised combinations, could do more to effect measures of reform than the Government, and they could force the Government into those measures of reform (applause). For some years past Ireland, at all events, had had its share of agitation, and it had been to a great extent directed towards the benefit of one class in the community. He was one of those who for a long time had held the opinion that while a great deal had been done for the farming classes of the country, and though, no doubt, vast concessions had been obtained for them, enough had not been done for the trade and labour organisations (applause). was no doubt that their people had in recent years largely congregated in the towns from the country districts; and enough had not been done to promote their welfare by those who were the leaders of public opinion in the country (hear, hear). There was no doubt that at the opening of the land agitation the condition of Ireland was bad in the extreme, but now that that had been remedied, he trusted the leaders of public opinion in Ireland would direct their attention to the organisation of trade and the development of home industries (applause). England had never governed Ireland from the beneficial or industrial point of view (hear, hear). England extracted millions of taxes from them, taxes that they were unable to pay, and taxes that they were unjustly called on to pay, and that was the only attention they got from that paternal Government (hear, hear).

Alderman Connolly said he believed the visit of the Congress would be productive of much good to Sligo. The industrial facilities of Sligo were second to none in Ireland, and yet they had scarcely

any manufactories in it.

Alderman M'CARRICK said he came there to give a hearty cead mile failte to the delegates. He was sure that the fruits which would follow their deliberations would benefit not only the workers of Sligo, but of Ireland (hear, hear). The workingman was the bone and sinew of Ireland, and he had as good a right to live in the land of his birth as the wealthiest in the country (hear, hear). Were it not for the labourers and artisans in the towns the land agitation would not have been so successful as it had been (hear, hear). It was high time that the farmers of Ireland should join with the workers, and say: "We will give them the same privileges that we have got, or, at least, we will agitate and see that they will have an equal share in the prosperity of their country" (hear, hear). The farmers should join with the workers and see that they had a stake in the land that belonged to them (cheers). It was a mere accident that the workers were placed in towns. Every agricultural labourer in the country should have a decent house to live in and some ground to occupy his spare time on. This would prevent the flooding of the labour market in towns, where the competition would, as a matter of course, be less keen, and the workers would enjoy a fair_ day's wage for a fair day's work. As Alderman Connolly had said, their town was beautifully situated for an industrial centre, and still they had no factories, because, he believed, there was not sufficient energy or patriotism in the men of Ireland to establish works in the cities and towns. If they had manufactures, they would keep their men and women at home and increase the prosperity of Ireland. People in foreign lands had no right to make riches out of the toil of our people (hear, hear). It was a sad spectacle to see thousands of their fellow-countrymen and women leaving the land of their birth while there was plenty of money in the country to keep them at home. He trusted that in the near future every workingman in Sligo would be organised under the trade union banner of his trade.

Councillor DUFFY pointed out that for want of employment the

population of Sligo had materially decreased.

Councillors Maguire, Finan, and Keane also welcomed the delegates, and hoped they would carry away with them pleasing recollections of Sligo.

THANKS TO THE MAYOR.

Councillor M'Carron (Derry), in proposing that a hearty vote of thanks be passed to the Mayor and Corporation of Sligo for their attendance at Congress that day and the warm welcome they had accorded the delegates, said from what he had seen of the people of the town, they were anxious to honour the labour representatives who composed the Irish Trades Union Congress.

Councillor Leahy (Dublin), in seconding, said they would leave Sligo very strongly impressed with the kindness they had received from the Mayor and Corporation. The speeches they had listened to were only another argument in favour of the Irish Parliamentary Party forcibly advocating in the House of Commons the opening up of Irish industries, and their promotion, by the money which this country had been overtaxed.

The Chairman, in putting the resolution, said special thanks were, indeed, due to the Mayor and Corporation for the practical sympathy they had shown by their presence in the furthering of

trade unionism in the West of Ireland.

The vote of thanks was passed amid loud applause.

The Mayor, in acknowledging the vote of thanks on behalf of himself and his colleagues, said a more pleasing day's task had never been allotted to them than to welcome the Irish Trades Union Congress to Sligo.

The Mayor and Members of the Corporation then left the Town

Hall amid hearty cheers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Chairman said they had now come to the practical business of the Congress, and the first duty which devolved on them was to

elect a President. He asked for nominations for the office.

On the motion of Mr. FARRELL (President of the Sligo Trades Council), seconded by Mr. GALLAGHER (Secretary of same Council), Mr. Alexander Bowman (Belfast) was unanimously elected President of the Congress.

Mr. E. L. Richardson (Dublin) and Mr. Gallagher (Sligo) were

elected Secretaries to the Congress.

Messrs. Geo. Leahy, P.L.G. (Dublin), Samuel Monro (Belfast),

and Charles Kavanagh (Dublin) were appointed Tellers.

The following were elected on the Standing Orders Committee—Mr. H. M'Manus (Belfast), Alderman Doyle (Dublin), Councillor M'Carthy (Thurles), Councillor Liddell (Belfast), and Councillor Prendergast (Limerick).

The Auditors elected were—Messrs. William Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), and M'Namara (Cork). Subsequently Mr. C. Comiskey

(Dublin) took Mr. M'Namara's place.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Alexander Bowman, on taking the Chair, was loudly cheered. He said—

Fellow-Delegates—Allow me to thank you most heartily for the very great honour you have conferred upon me in electing me to preside over your deliberations at this meeting of the Irish Trades Union Congress. It is difficult, if not indeed impossible, to strike a note of originality in a presidential address; so much has been said, and said well, that one can hardly improve on those already delivered. However, there is one novel feature always available—namely, brevity, and I intend to introduce that novelty on this occa-

sion. I shall not take up much time with retrospect of the work of the Congress. The past has lived, and is now dead. We live in the present and for the future. As to the past, it is enough to say that the history of the Congress is an abundant justification for its existence. It has been able to influence the workers of Ireland in the direction of better organisation. Existing societies have had their membership augmented, new societies have been called into being, and the spirit of solidarity amongst Irish workers fostered by the action of the Congress and of the Parliamentary Committee (hear, hear). The central government of the country, as well as most of the local governing bodies, have been approached and influenced in the interest of the working classes. Popular representatives have been communicated with, and their sympathy and assistance secured, both in regard to legislation and administration. The conditions of life and labour in Ireland being dissimilar to those prevailing in other parts of the Empire, a distinctively Irish Trades Congress is best fitted to be the organ and mouthpiece of the Irish workers (applause).

Apart from this, or, indeed, any of the reasons I have heard assigned as justification for the act of those leaders in the Labour movement in Ireland who, in 1894, decided to found the Irish Congress, there is one which, in my opinion, not only warranted, but actually demanded such action, viz., the disparity between the industrial development of England and Wales, and, indeed, of Scotland also, as compared with Ireland. Two bodies or communities cannot satisfactorily progress side by side except their starting point be identical and their rate of progress equal. When we contrast the industrial position of the richer island with that of the poorer—the position of Great Britain with that of Ireland—we must recognise that these countries can make best progress by each going forward from its own standpoint and at its own rate. In saying this, I hope I shall not be be misunderstood, for I desire above all things that the workers of Great Britain and of Ireland should appreciate the essential identity of their interests, and that they should as far as possible co-operate with each other for the promotion of all that concerns the well-being of the workers of both countries (applause). In Great Britain commerce and industry have reached the highest point of development known to history, whereas in Ireland our industries are practically only in process of being born or re-born. The duty of trade unionists in the one set of circumstances is utterly unlike their duty in the other. Hence the justification and necessity for the continued existence of the Irish Congress (hear, hear). In the former case the duties of labour organisations, by means of individual unions and federation of such unions, are the securing of advanced rates of wages and the improvement of the general conditions of labour. This work has been well and effectively done, with the result that the general conditions of labour are much more humane on the other side of the Channel than on this, while the rates of wages paid in the several trades in the several trades are from ten per cent. to, in many cases, fifty per cent. more than here. In fact, the primary duty of British trade unions has been to secure to the worker the largest proportion of the product of his energy and skill that is economically possible. Trades councils in England and Scotland have been mainly concerned with the duty of influencing local governing bodies with a view to securing the adoption by them of such powers as they possess for the amelioration of the conditions, sanitary and social, under which the people live (hear, hear). The work of the United Trades Congress is in like manner to direct its attention to the Legislature, in order to promote or assist in promoting legislative reforms in the interest of the workers. We have some idea how well this duty has been discharged when we think of the number of Acts relating to factories, workshops, and mines, to truck, to 'employers' liability, to workmen's compensation, to the housing of artisans and labourers, and the many other laws in the interest of the workers which have been enacted during the past thirty years (applause). In Ireland our position, and, therefore, our duty, is very different, our main industry being agriculture, and this carried on under the most hampering and depressing conditions, our textile, metal-working, shipbuilding, and brewing trades, with their cognate industries, only furnishing employ-

ment for an inconsiderable proportion of our people.

The establishment of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, under the management of the Hon. Horace Plunkett (applause), furnishes us with good grounds for hope that the golden age lies before Ireland in the not very distant future (hear, hear). The duty of Irish trade and labour unions is to assist by every means in their power to create and establish Irish industries (hear, hear). We are sometimes told that we expect, or, at least, desire, too much from the Government. I think those who charge this upon the Irish people do so because they fail to apprehend what the Government really is. The Government is simply the expression of the average general thought materialised into action. If the Government can provide for the technical education of the people more efficiently and economically than private educationalists, it is then not only our right, but our duty to insist that the work shall be undertaken and accomplished by it (hear, hear). We are often told of the difficulty we experience in maintaining our position in the markets of the world; our most pressing competitors are the peoples of the nations whose Governments most liberally endow technical training institu-Let those who would bar the way to a wider and more thorough technical education look to America, Germany, France Belgium, and Denmark for a lesson; let them consider the ways of these, our rivals in the world's markets, and be wise in time. We, as workers, can do much to create, foster, and stimulate in the minds of the young men and women of this country a desire for a complete technical training. When Young Ireland, thus trained, enters upon its life work it will do so with muscles more susceptible and faculties imbued, in some degree, at least, with affection for its work. A people possessing the innate artistic and imaginative qualities of the Irish race, fitted by proper training, is quite certain to be able to render a good account of itself as artisans or as manufacturers (hear, hear) Then shall Ireland cease to be the Cinderella of the nations, and

adopt the role of Mercury. We must ever bear in mind that no one of the all too many sections into which the population of this country is divided has a monopoly of patriotism. Our people are so sharply divided by race, by religion, and by politics, that they have never been able, under present conditions, to make a really effective, hearty, and unanimous effort for the well-being of our common country. In trade unionism we have a platform broad enough and an ideal lofty enough for every Irishman (applause). Our platform is so broad that it can afford standing room for every man who, loving Ireland, is willing to do any useful work for her material advancement, and our ideal is the uniting of all sects, creeds, and parties in the attempt to raise our common and beloved country to that material, moral, and

social position to which she is entitled (hear, hear).

One of the things most needed, after improved education and training, is capital. This should present no great difficulty, certainly no difficulty of an insurmountable character. There is always a great volume of Irish capital seeking investment outside Ireland. In the past this may have been due to the fact that the people, the real source not only of capital, but of all wealth, were not fitted by education and training to make a profitable use of capital invested in Irish industrial undertakings. But if, with improved educational facilities, the people of Ireland show themselves capable of making Irish investments remunerative, there is no doubt but plenty of capital will be forthcoming, all the more so as, owing to its enormous increase in these lands, there is very great difficulty in finding investments at once sound and satisfactory. We then, as organised workers, can say to those of our countrymen who, loving their country, desire to do her a service, and who control her capital-"Let us join hands. You have the capital, we the muscles and the skill, and by the judicious blending of the forces of Capital and Labour this land of ours, so long a reproach to Western civilisation, may-nay, shall be made to blossom as the rose, and her sons and daughters, being fully employed in the performance of useful work, shall realise the dignity and blessedness of those who, working with their hands, see the result of their labour materialising before their eyes (applause). This is easily possible. Is it too much to hope for and expect such an union between the classes which represent Capital and Labour? I think—in fact, I am assured it is not, but if it is, let the workers of this country, used as they are to bearing heavy burdens, take the task of the industrial regeneration of Ireland upon their own broad shoulders. Let the workers of Ireland come to her rescue by the establishment of People's Banks. These will furnish depositaries for the savings of the thrifty, and at the same time supply money for the development of the latent resources of the country-resources how abundant, but, ah! how latent. It is generally admitted that many of our mineral resources, given sufficient capital, could be advantageously developed. Our fisheries are not only rich, they are practically inexhaustible. The pastoral and agricultural fecundity of our soil are almost proverbial. Let these resources be cultivated and developed, and there shall be bread for the

eater and seed for the sower throughout all our borders (hear, hear). Take one instance illustrative of this. Every year we import raw material in the form of flax alone amounting to millions of pounds worth. We bring this flax from Belgium, Holland, Russia, and elsewhere, though with proper training our own farmers and village workers could so treat the native flax that in fibre it would compare most favourably with the best we get from Belgium or Holland, and it is well known that the best fibre we get from Russia is not to be compared with the worst Irish flax in point of tenuity or spin, while some of the poorest flax recently imported from Siberia has little more "stretch" in it than is to be found in good meadow hay. Why then should our new Agricultural Department not give its attention to the training of our people in the knowledge and art of treating flax while it is growing and until it has been prepared for the market? If through the action of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction the millions we now pay to foreign peoples for flax can be converted into a wages fund to reward the farmer and the agricultural worker for giving greater attention to the home crop, Mr. Plunkett and his coadjutors will have earned more profound gratitude from the Irish people than almost any other men of this generation (applause). What is true of the flax crop is in greater or less degree true of beef, butter, eggs, pork, mutton, and the manufacture of peat moss litter, etc., as well as of many resources which have been scarcely or never even tapped yet. Ours is "a rich and a rare land." May its people be able to so develop its wealth as that they may be enriched by it (hear, hear). Let us, as workers, conjointly with the moneyed classes, if that be possible-but with or without them, let the workers forget the accidental differences which tend to separate them, and let them, apart from race, religious, or political differences, join hand in hand, and no power on earth can withstand the just and reasonable demand of a people thus united.

Our excessive railway rates tend more than anything else to handicap, hamper, and cripple the industries of this country. As railways are now practically the highways and common roads of the people, both for their own travelling and for the transit of their merchandise, it is at once ethically unjust and economically unsound that they should be used for the purpose of earning private dividends rather than for the development and extension of the industry of the country and the well-being of its people (hear, hear). The Nationalisation of Railways is not now a matter of experiment, as the plan has been tried, with the best results, both on the Continent and in our own Colonies. If we are going to enter into competition, say, with Belgium, either in textile or metal goods, we must, so far as we can, put ourselves upon an equal footing with Belgium (hear, hear). The same thing applies all round. Develop our lands, our fisheries, our minerals, and our manufactures, and let us lay aside every weight that can interfere with our equality of opportunity in the race. If we would have a fair chance in the markets of the world, we must see that all that can be accomplished for the promotion of the health and vitality of our people shall be done. The ancients deemed the

health of the people to be the supreme law, and if our people are to have a chance of good health, they must have proper food, suitable clothing, and sanitary dwellings to rest and refresh their bodies in. It will pay to see that the workers have these advantages. If one wants the very best results even out of an ass, he will see that it is all right as to food, litter, and stabling. Are not men of much more consequence than asses? The Legislature has endowed local authorities with powers to enable them to tackle the housing problem, whether it be the housing of artisans in urban communities or of labourers in the rural districts. Without wasting time discussing the question whether or not the existing laws include provisions for every class in the community; let us address ourselves to the task of so acting, whether from the inside or the outside, upon every local authority in Ireland as to compel them to make use of such powers as they possess for the provision of suitable, wholesome, and sanitary homes for the artisans and labourers of Ireland (hear, hear). At the same time, let us see that the Public Health Acts are so applied and administered as that the poor shall have wholesome food in order to repair the tissues worn out by the laborious work they have to perform from day to day. In this way our people, being strong and healthy in body, may go forward from strength to strength until they evolve a nation great in physique, great in effort, great in morals, and great in intellect (applause).

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breath; In feeling, not in figures on a dial.

We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

Mr. George Leahy, P.L.G. (Dublin), in proposing a vote of thanks to the President for his very able statement, said he had participated in every Irish Trades Congress since its inception, but on no occasion had he listened to a more eloquent address. In his remarks he had dealt with the question of technical and agricultural training, the housing of the working classes, and many other subjects in a very concise and lucid manner. Referring to exportation, he said very truly the only thing they export in this country was the population. He trusted that address would be carefully read and taken to heart by every trade unionist in Ireland.

Mr. MICHAEL TRAVIS (Manorhamilton) formally seconded the

motion.

The Vice-Chairman, in putting the motion, said it was a mere formality to ask them to pass the resolution with acclamation.

The resolution was passed amidst loud applause.

THE WELSH COLLIERY DISASTER.

Mr. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), asked for the suspension of the Standing Orders to move a vote of sympathy with the victims of the colliery disaster in Wales.

Leave having been given,

Mr. WALKER, P.L.G., moved—"That this Congress tenders to the relatives and friends of those killed and injured in the colliery disaster at Seughydd, near Caerphilly, Wales, their sincerest sympathy and condolence; and instructs the Secretary to forward this expression of sympathy to the proper quarter; and that the Parliamentary Committee take into their immediate consideration the desirability of making a contribution to the relief fund necessitated by the calamity."

Mr. M'DEVITT (Belfast) seconded the motion, which was passed

in silence, the delegates rising.

Mr. M'Manus, Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, brought up an *ad interim* Report on the Agenda, which was adopted. The Congress then adjourned for lunch. On resuming,

LOCAL BODIES AND THE FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION.

Mr. J. MURPHY (Belfast) moved :-

"That this Congress regrets that many local government bodies in Ireland neglect to enforce the Fair Wages Resolution, which should be interpreted and considered to mean the usual trade union rate paid, hours worked, and conditions of employment in force in each trade in the district in which any local government contract is being executed; and that we call upon all public boards in Ireland who have not hitherto adopted this principle to give adhesion thereto, and extend to the workers of the country the benefits under the Resolution."

He said the question of enforcing the Fair Wages Resolution was an important one, and affected most of the organised trades of Ireland. They should not lose a single opportunity of seeing that the Resolution was enforced on every public board. Surely it was only rational and right that public bodies should follow the lead which had been given them by the Imperial Parliament. The Government would do nothing in the matter unless their attention was frequently and assiduously drawn to infringements of the Fair Wages Resolution. In Belfast they had the experience of forcing the attention of the Government to the subject, while in Dublin there had been considerable controversy over the matter.

Mr. Nichol (Belfast), in seconding, said that the City Council of Belfast flagrantly infringed the Fair Wages Resolution. Instead of enforcing it, they were inclined to give preference to blacklegs.

Mr. Chambers, P.L.G. (Dublin), asked, when the local government elections were on, what use did the workers then make of the power placed in their hands by the extended franchise? Did they use it to advance trade unionism, or in the interest of labour? He said, most assuredly they did not. Did the workers at that time extract any promise or pledge from the people seeking election on their public boards that, if returned, they would enforce the spirit of this Resolution? He knew very well that they did not. And what occurred as the result of this apathy amongst the workers at election times? Those on public boards were giving the Fair Wages Resolution the cold shoulder on the majority of these boards. The remedy for this matter lay in their own hands. When the elections

came on next year it should be the duty of the workers to send direct Labour representatives to the public boards. If they could not put in direct Labour representatives, they should vote for men

pledged to carry out the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution.

Mr. Comiskey (Dublin) said it was characteristic of public boards that they did everything in their power to evade the Fair Wages Resolution. It was a perfect disgrace for a Government, whether Liberal or Tory, to tolerate the existence of such a state of things—

THE PRESIDENT.—The resolution deals with local government

bodies. You are not speaking to the resolution.

Mr. Comiskey.—I know in one particular case in Dublin the

Government has to do with it.

THE PRESIDENT.—The Government has nothing to do with the contracts referred to.

Mr. RICHARDSON said there were some 600 bodies in Ireland elected under the Local Government Act, but of 30 boards of town commissioners not one had provided any condition as to the observance of fair wages by their contractors. Of 159 boards of guardians only 9 insisted that their work should be done under fair conditions. Of 84 urban district councils 74 had laid down no rule. Of the 212 district councils 190 followed the same course; and 10 only of 33 county councils had inserted in their contracts conditions of one sort or another. When they brought the subject before Mr. Wyndham last January he said the matter was entirely in the hands of the voters of the country. A great deal could be accomplished if the delegates from that Congress, who represented a very large number of electors, instilled into the minds of those residing in their particular districts the necessity that existed for pledging candidates for public honours that effect should be given to the Fair Wages Resolution, and proper conditions inserted in the contract or tender forms. It was only at election times the resolution could be given effect to. when they could take to task gentlemen who violated their promises.

Mr. G. Leahy, P.L.G. (Dublin), said the North Dublin Union carried out the Resolution. It was useless and idle to be discussing the question Congress after Congress, for they knew it to be a fact that when a man taken from his own rank came forward at an election, the workers stood aside and supported persons antagonistic to trade unionism, simply because they were of a certain political colour. The workers of Ireland did not look to their own bread and butter; until they elected men of their own class, they need never

expect public boards to support that Resolution.

Councillor Gageby (Belfast) said the Fair Wages Resolution

was inserted in the contracts of the Belfast City Council.

Mr. Nichol said that twelve months ago the Gas Committee gave out a contract and said they forgot to put in the Fair Wages Resolution. They said they would insert it the next time, but on the next occasion they also failed to put it in.

Mr. Collins (Dublin) said Dublin was in no way behind Bel-

fast in respect to the Resolution.

Mr. Farrell (Sligo) said the Resolution was in force on all their local boards.

Councillor M'Innes (Belfast) said the matter was in their own hands. They should return none but Labour men or those pledged to enforce the Fair Wages Resolution. Out of fifty-six men on the Council in Belfast there were only four Labour representatives, and it was impossible for them to force the Resolution down the throats of an unsympathetic Corporation, who would put every obstacle in the way of its being carried out. The Resolution would never work satisfactorily unless it was placed on the Statute Book, or the workers themselves succeeded in returning Labour representatives or friendly supporters.

Mr. Mulcahy (Dublin) also spoke.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

At this stage Mr. WALKER, P.L.G., called attention to Standing Order 10, which provided that the Report of the Parliamentary Committee should be discussed after the opening proceedings.

It was thereupon decided to take the Report first business on

Tuesday morning.

STATIONERY OFFICE CONTRACTS.

Mr. Hugh McManus (Belfast) moved :-

"That we condemn the present antiquated and inequitable system, whereby contractors for Irish Stationery Office contracts are compelled to take all paper, cardboard, vellum, leather, cloth, and other unworked material from the department, thus penalising and handicapping fair employers in the printing business in Belfast, Cork, and other parts of Ireland by the heavy railway charges for freight and carriage to and from Dublin, and we submit that it would be to the advantage of the public service if such material (to be, where possible, of home manufacture) were supplied by the contractor whose tender may be accepted by H.M. Stationery Office, or the material sent direct from the mill or the Stationery Office warehouse, carriage free, to the contractor's works."

It was a most extraordinary state of things, he said, that paper, etc., had to be procured from the Stationery Office in Dublin. Owing to the carriage on the goods from Dublin to Belfast, Cork, and Limerick, it almost shut out the possibility of the latter entering into competition with the metropolis. The practice greatly handicapped employers in the North and South of Ireland who competed for the work under the fair wages terms. The proper way would be

to let the contractor supply his own paper, etc. Mr. John Murphy (Belfast) seconded.

Mr. Collins (Dublin) sympathised to a certain extent with a great portion of the resolution, but he did not think the cost of the carriage of the paper, etc., would interfere very much with the contractors. After all, it was but a trifling matter and scarcely worthy of consideration. He did not think such a trifle would pre-

vent Belfast from getting contracts. He was not in favour of

changing the methods of the Stationery Office, and, consequently, would oppose the resolution.

Mr. Monro (Belfast) strongly supported the motion, and said

one centre should not have an advantage over another.

Mr. Moore (Dublin), on behalf of the bookbinders, opposed the motion. They could not see their way to follow the gentleman who moved the resolution.

Mr. G. LEAHY, P.L.G. (Dublin), also opposed.

Councillor M'Innes (Belfast) hoped that Congress would not divide on a question favouring any particular centre or locality.

They desired fair play for all Ireland.

Mr. M'NAMARA (Cork) commented upon the spirit in which the matter had been approached by the Dublin delegates. They should have taken it up in a broader manner, for, after all, it was, so to speak, a question of national and not local interest. Any village in Ireland had just as much right to the advantage as another. was surprised at any gentleman standing on a narrow principle to defend an antiquated idea. He supported the resolution on the grounds that no village or centre, in regard to Government or other work, should be placed at a disadvantage.

Mr. KAVANAGH (Dublin) supported the resolution.

Alderman Kelleher (Cork) said he did not think the Congress would be so foolish, or trade unionists so narrow-minded, as not to pass the resolution unanimously, and thereby show they were not conservative, but desired to give the same privilege in this matter to all parts of the country.

Mr. Simmons (Dublin) said he thought the metropolis was willing to concede any equitable claim urged by other cities in

Ireland.

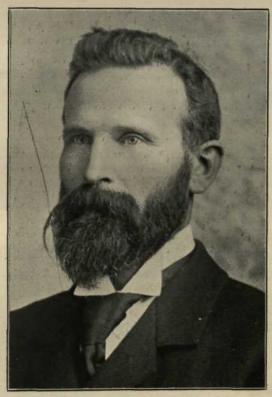
The resolution was passed, Mr. Moore dissenting.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND THE FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION.

Mr. Richardson (Dublin) formally moved :-

"Whereas much difficulty is experienced in obtaining particulars relating to Government contracts in Ireland, and in identifying the persons entrusted therewith; and whereas serious complaints have frequently been made against such persons for breach of the Fair Wages Resolution: Be it therefore resolved-That, in order to remove these difficulties and to secure a more rigid observance of the conditions laid down by the House of Commons, this Congress strongly urges-1st. That concise particulars of all Government contracts, together with the names, etc., of the persons whose tenders are accepted, be given in the 'Labour Gazette'; 2nd. That a penalty of not less than five per cent. on the amount of the tenders be imposed upon all contractors who fail to comply with the Fair Wages Resolution in executing the work; 3rd. That the names, etc., of such contractors be published."

Mr. Tracey (Dublin), in seconding the motion, said since the Resolution had been adopted by the House of Commons the War Office authorities had ignored it with regard to painting contracts in



ALEXANDER BOWMAN (Belfast),

President of the Congress.

various military districts throughout Ireland. Many military contracts had been given away, and in their execution the Fair Wages Resolution was undoubtedly as dead as if it had never existed. They had appealed to the War Office when contracts were being given away, but had never received any satisfactory reply. The authorities had put them off time after time, and they had to bring the matter under the notice of Parliament through their representatives. The answers made to the questions asked had not been satisfactory, and no further steps had been taken to ensure that fair labour would be employed and fair wages paid in these contracts. He asked the mover of the resolution to attach to his motion as an addendum the

question of the War Office contracts.

Mr. Comiskey (Dublin), in supporting the resolution, said that the Government could not plead ignorance of the fact that some time ago in Dublin they had a case against a War Office contractor who admitted on his own sworn testimony that he was employing tradesmen at the rate of eighteen shillings a week. Mr. Nannetti, M.P., had placed these facts before the Under Secretary of State for War. Subsequently, he (the speaker) wrote to the officer commanding the Dublin District asking, on behalf of his trade, to be heard at an inquiry into this case which was then about to be held. Major-General Gosset replied that he would communicate where and when the inquiry would take place; but they heard nothing more about the matter. He could prove that this contractor had evaded the Fair Wages Resolution and had refused to pay lodging money. Men had been sent to Fermoy and Limerick and paid sixpence an hour or whatever the contractor thought proper. He thought the contractor referred to, on his own sworn testimony, should be excluded from the War Office list of contractors.

Mr. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), agreed in condemning the action of the War Office in the matter of these contracts. He instanced the case of a contract of Messrs. Musgrave, of Belfast, where subletting existed, and read a letter from the War Office stating that no

further infringement of the rule should take place.

Mr. Chambers, P.L.G. (Dublin), said they should keep hammering away at the War Office until their grievances were redressed.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

SUB-LETTING CONTRACTS.

Mr. George Leahy, P.L.G. (Dublin), for Mr. M'Namara (Cork),

moved :-

"That in the opinion of this Congress a clause should be inserted in all Government and local government contracts penalising the practice of sub-letting any portion of such contracts to persons who do not observe the Fair Wages Resolution; and in directing the attention of the authorities to the fact that the plastering work in connection with the new bridewell, Chancery Street, Dublin, is being performed under conditions not in consonance with the House of Commons Resolution of 1891, owing to the system of sub-letting adopted by the contractor, this Congress instructs the Parliamentary

Committee to take such steps as they may deem advisable to urge upon the Government authorities, public boards, architects, and builders the necessity of putting an end to this system, which is

detrimental to the interests of the Irish plastering trade."

He said the matter referred to in the latter part of the motion, for which he was responsible, was a large building contract, the contractor being a gentleman from Belfast. He desired to point out the inconsistency of the contractor in reference to this matter. Before the job was ready for plastering, their society approached him with a view to having Dublin plasterers to execute the work. He consented, but eventually sub-let the work.

Mr. Malone (Dublin) seconded, and the resolution was adopted

unanimously.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

On the motion of Mr. John Ryan (Dublin), seconded by Mr.

Hudson (Dublin), it was resolved:-

"That the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress calls upon the Irish Members to support the Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge Bill) brought in by Mr. Bell."

Mr. WALKER, P.L.G., asked was this the same Bill that recently

passed second reading on the motion of Mr. Jacoby.

Mr. Richardson replied in the affirmative.

NIGHTWORK IN BAKEHOUSES.

Councillor Murray Davis (Belfast) moved :-

"That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to urge the Irish Representatives to support the Bill, introduced last session by Mr. S. Woods, for the abolition of nightwork in bakehouses."

Mr. A. Boyn (Belfast) seconded.

Mr. P. FARRELL (Sligo) moved as an amendment :-

"That as a resolution for the abolition of nightwork in bake-houses by Parliamentary enactment has been adopted by Congress annually for the past seven years, and that as the attainment of this desirable reform appears as far off as ever, this Congress considers that the object can best be secured by trade union effort, and hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee to forward a notification to this effect to the annual Bakers Conference, to be held in August next at Swinford, County Mayo." He said that if the bakers of Dublin and Belfast stood together they could abolish nightwork in bakehouses in twenty-four hours.

Councillor MURRAY DAVIS vigorously condemned the amendment, and asserted that if that was to be the policy of the Congress in the future, the reform they advocated would never be accomplished, for the bakers themselves would be the first to render it

inoperative.

On a division, the amendment was lost by 34 votes to 14. The

motion was then adopted on a similar vote.

REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Mr. M'Manus brought up a further Report of Standing Orders Committee, recommending the grouping of resolutions on the Agenda dealing with Importation and other subjects, and directing nominations for Parliamentary Committee and Secretary to be handed in before twelve o'clock on Tuesday. The Report was adopted nem. con.

Congress then adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

The business of Congress was resumed at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Mr. ALEXANDER BOWMAN presided.

CHALLENGING THE REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Mr. CHAMBERS, P.L.G. (Dublin), said he wished to direct the attention of the President to the Report of the Standing Orders Committee, grouping resolutions dealing with Importation, and the omission from the group of resolution marked "C" on the Supplemental Slip, which dealt with the same subject. He thought it was the first time in the history of the Congress that a member of the Standing Orders Committee used his position for the purpose of keeping a resolution which stood in his own name out of grouped motions, in order to have it separately debated. He did not think it fair that one delegate or one trade should be more privileged than another. So sore did some of them feel about the matter, that it was their intention to move the suspension of the Standing Orders unless some satisfactory explanation was given.

THE PRESIDENT said he had read very carefully the five resolutions referred to, including that marked "C" on the supplemental slip, and he was bound to say the principle underlying all of them was identical—the bringing of manufactured goods into this country. He did not know why the Standing Orders Committee had over-looked resolution "C." His opinion was it should have been grouped with the others. However, he did not think they could now go back on what they had done last night. It would be out of order to send

back the Report, as they had adopted it.

Mr. M'Manus said it was intended that resolution "C" should

be moved in conjunction with the others.

After some discussion, during which it was pointed out that the omission of resolution "C" was possibly an error in transcribing the Report of the Standing Orders Committee, it was agreed that the five resolutions should be recast, and proposed as one motion.

Mr. CHAMBERS reminded the President that the Report of the Standing Orders Committee was taken at a late hour the previous evening, when the delegates had not time to consider it. He, however, felt satisfied with the arrangement suggested by Mr. M'Manus—that all the motions dealing with Importation should be considered as one general resolution.

THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. RICHARDSON said, before the Congress proceeded to discuss the Committee's Report, he desired to read the following letter, which had been received since the Report had been issued. It had, however, been printed and circulated among the delegates:—

Admiralty, S.W., 22nd May, 1901.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 26th January last, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Irish Trades Congress in June last, urging that a fair proportion of the contracts for H.M. ships to be built and repaired should be placed in Ireland, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that the question of placing such contracts is necessarily governed by the capacity of the firms called upon to tender for the work. (2) My Lords desire me to state there is no desire to exclude Irish firms from tendering for such work, and the application of any firm which may consider itself qualified to be placed on the Admiralty list of contractors will at all times receive every consideration; and if on inquiry satisfactory evidence can be furnished of such capacity, the application will be acceded to, and opportunities afforded the firm to tender for such work as may be within its capabilities and can be conveniently done in Ireland. (3) I am to add, as evidence of their desire to comply with such applications, that my Lords have recently added the name of the Londonderry Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, to the Admiralty list for work which an examination of their works has proved them to be capable of performing.—I am. Sir, your obedient servant.

EVAN MACGREGOR.

The Parliamentary Committee's Report, which was received on the motion of Mr. G. Leahy (Dublin), was as follows:—

Fellow-Delegates—Your Committee beg to present a record of their proceedings for the past year.

THE RECENT TAILORS' DISPUTE IN DUBLIN.

At their first meeting, immediately after the conclusion of the last Congress, a letter was received from the Master Tailors' Association of Dublin, stating they would be pleased to receive the deputation appointed by Congress in the matter of the tailors' dispute then pending, at four o'clock on Thursday, 7th June, at the Wicklow Hotel. Accordingly, the deputation, accompanied by your Secretary, attended as arranged, but, after three hours conference, failed to arrive at a settlement, although they offered to submit the claims of the men, along with the counter-claims of the employers, to arbitration.

CO-OPERATION OF THE ENGLISH CONGRESS.

In accordance with the usual practice, copies of all resolutions affecting industrial legislation were forwarded to the Parliamentary Committee of the English Trades Congress, with the intimation that we were prepared to do all in our power to co-operate in urging the matters forward, and requesting their assistance in having questions peculiarly affecting Irish workers brought more forcibly under the

notice of the English Labour Members and the Government. The following is their reply:—

The Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, 191 Buckingham St., Strand, London, 17th July, 1900.

Dear Sir—According to promise, I brought your letter and copy resolutions before the Parliamentary Committee during their sitting last week. They fully

considered the resolutions, and instructed me to reply as follows:-

(1st).—That they are deeply in sympathy with the subject matter of these resolutions. That these questions, during this session of Parliament, have been brought before the notice of the Ministers in charge, by deputation and other ways; and during the month of March the Parliamentary Committee organised a large and successful joint meeting of about forty members of the House of Commons to discuss these legislative proposals, and have done all in their power

to give effect to the wishes of the trade unions in regard to them.

(2nd).—I am to express to you the views of the Parliamentary Committee in regard to the unfortunate existence of these sectional Congresses—that their present existence divides the forces of Labour, weakens their influence, and makes them an easy prey to the capitalistic classes. The Parliamentary Committee feels very strongly on this subject, and is convinced, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the time has fully come when these breaches should be healed up, sectional Congresses should cease to exist, and that both the Irish Congress and the Scottish Congress should again be part and parcel of the British Trades Union Congress as in days of yore.

(3rd).—With this object in view, the Parliamentary Committee would be glad, at a convenient time, to meet the representatives of the Irish Congress and the Scottish Congress to consolidate the forces of Labour. The reason and necessity for this must be obvious to all who take an interest in the Trade Union

movement.—With kind regards, yours faithfully, S. Woods.

While thanking Mr. Woods for his assurances of the support of his Committee, your Secretary, in reply, was instructed to forward the following resolution, unanimously adopted by your Committee, and which, they feel sure, expresses the desires of the trade unionists of Ireland in the matter referred to in 2nd and 3rd paragraphs:—

Resolved.—That we intimate to the Parliamentary Committee of the English Trades Union Congress that we are quite prepared to meet, in Ireland, representatives from their Committee to discuss the best means of solidifying the Labour movement in Great Britain and Ireland; but we are strongly of opinion that the Irish Trades Congress has greatly benefited trades organisation in this country, and has fully justified the necessity for its existence.

EMIGRATION.

With reference to the resolution of the Congress dealing with the drain upon the industrial population of the country by emigration (p. 43 last year's Report), the following letter was received, in reply, from the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Education:—

House of Commons, 26th June, 1900.

Dear Sir—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., and enclosed copy of a resolution adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress at their annual meeting, held during the early part of this month, in regard to the large emigration from the rural districts of Ireland, and suggesting that measures should be taken to check this drain upon the agricultural population.

In reply, I beg to say that I am entirely in sympathy with the object of the resolution, and that the new Department with which I am connected will indirectly further this object by affording every possible aid and encouragement to the people to acquire the best methods of husbandry and to develop agriculture

and other rural industries.-I am yours very truly,

HORACE PLUNKETT.

THE CORK EXHIBITION.

Your Committee view with the utmost satisfaction the action of the Lord Mayor and citizens of Cork in promoting an Industrial Exhibition next year in that city. They confidently urge upon the trade and labour societies of Ireland the desirability of extending to the project their fullest moral and financial support. As if to give effect to Mr. Horace Plunkett's desire, as set out in his letter above, the Department over which he practically presides has granted £5,000 to help the Cork Exhibition to success.

THE GOVERNMENT FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

The strong protest of the Congress against the Government's intention to amend the Factories and Workshops Acts so as to permit of the two-shift system for women and young persons, increase of overtime, and other reactionary proposals contemplated in their Bill of last session (p. 10 last year's Report), elicited the following reply from the Home Office:—

Home Department, Whitehall, 20th June, 1900.

Sir—I am directed by Secretary Sir Matthew Ridley to say that he has had before him your letter of 16th inst., submitting a resolution passed by the Irish Trades Union Congress on the subject of the Factories and Workshops Bill now before Parliament. Sir Matthew Ridley is unable to reply separately to all the criticisms on this Bill which he has received; but he finds that many of these criticisms are based on misapprehensions as to the effect of certain provisions of the Bill, or as to his object in proposing them, and he thinks it may serve to remove some of such misapprehensions if he sends, for the information of your Committee, the enclosed copy of a letter which he has addressed to the Secretary of the London Trades Council.*—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. E. TROUP.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS-THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT PROPOSALS.

Your Committee have had under consideration the Government's Bill to consolidate the existing laws relating to Factories and Workshops. As this proposal but codifies past legislation, your Committee do not feel called upon to suggest amendments. They are, however, giving close attention to the Home Secretary's Amendment Bill, which, though in many points not so objectionable as the Bill introduced in the last Parliament, still needs careful revision. Unless unforeseen Parliamentary accidents occur, the Government have expressed their intention of getting these proposals through during the present session.

FEMALE FACTORY INSPECTORS .- DANGEROUS TRADES AND SANITATION.

With reference to the resolutions upon these subjects (see pp. 31 and 38 last year's Report), the following letter was received from the Home Office:—

Home Office, Whitehall, 15th September, 1900. Sir—I have laid before the Secretary of State your letter of the 28th ult., forwarding copies of two resolutions passed at the recent Annual Meeting of the

[•] This letter dealt scriatim with the objections of the London Trades Council and the Irish Trades Congress to the Bill of last session. As that Bill has been withdrawn, it is unnecessary to reprint the Home Secretary's defence of its provisions.

Irish Trades Union Congress, and I am directed by him to say, for the information of the Parliamentary Committee, that the organisation of the staff of lady Inspectors is not regulated according to geographical divisions, and would not, therefore, admit of a lady Inspector being stationed permanently in Ireland. Sir Matthew Ridley may point out that various members of the female factory staff are frequently employed on visits to Ireland when their services are required in connection with Irish industries, and that Ireland absorbs a considerable proportion of their attention.

With regard to flax-roughing rooms, the Secretary of State learns from the Inspectors that very great improvement has recently taken place in their condition. Section 1 of the Factory Act of 1895 requires every room in a factory or workshop to have an area of 250 cubic feet of space for each person employed therein; and if it is within the knowledge of the Parliamentary Committee that any flax-roughing room has less than the legal cubic space, the Secretary of State

would be much obliged if they would give him particulars of the place.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY CUNYNGHAME.

The contents of this letter was forwarded to the Secretary of the Belfast Trades Council, at whose instance Congress adopted the resolution referred to in the second paragraph.

INSPECTION OF SHIPPING GEAR, ETC.

The Board of Trade forwarded the following in reply to Congress resolution on inspection of shipping gear (p. 31 last year's Report):—

Board of Trade (Fisheries and Harbour Department), 7 Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W., 18th Sept., 1900.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, enclosing, for the favourable consideration by this Board, copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Irish Trades Union Congress, relative to the appointment of an Inspector to look after the rigging of gear in discharging vessels, and also to see that proper gangways are provided, I am directed by the Board of Trade to request that you will state to your Committee that the subject of the better provision of gangways has been under the consideration of the Board for some time, but they regret that they are not in a position at the present time to take any useful steps in the matter.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. H. W. PELHAM.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Formal replies, acknowledging the receipt of copies of resolutions adopted by Congress, were also received from:—Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, President of the Board of Trade, the First Lord of the Treasury, Lords of the Admiralty, Secretary for War, the Lord Chancellor, Local Government Board, Port and Docks Board, the Municipal Council, and Sir Charles Dilke.

CO-OPERATION OF IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY.

In regard to the Factories and Workshops Bill, and other matters dealt with by Congress which were before Parliament last session, your Committee sought the intervention of the Irish Parliamentary Party in having the expressed desires of Irish workers recognised, with the following result:—

House of Commons, 13th July, 1900.

Dear Mr. Richardson—Your esteemed favour of the 16th ultimo, enclosing copies of the resolutions adopted at the Irish Trades Union Congress, reached me in due course, and I had the pleasure of placing them before the meeting of the

Irish Parliamentary Party held this day, being the first meeting held since the

receipt of your communication.

The Chairman has directed me to inform you that the Party are in entire sympathy with these resolutions, and will gladly avail of any favourable opportunity of giving them support.

I am further to assure you that any recommendations made to them by the

Irish Trades Union Congress shall always receive careful attention.

I am, dear Mr. Richardson, yours very truly,

WILLIAM ABRAHAM, One of the Hon Secs., I.P.P.

Your Committee desire, in passing, to place on record their regret at the exclusion from Parliament of the ex-Member for West Limerick, Mr. Michael Austin, to whom they have been in the past indebted for much attention. They, however, rejoice that the loss thus sustained has been fully met by the election of a life-long worker in the Labour ranks (Mr. J. P. Nannetti) for the College Green Division of Dublin, who has already given valuable assistance to your Committee.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

Your Committee, at the General Election last autumn, sent the following circular to all candidates for Irish constituencies. Much difficulty was experienced in reaching many of the candidates, owing to their frequent change of location during the contests. Hence the number of replies received fell very far short of the total number of circulars (over 150) sent out :-

Irish Trades Union Congress.—Parliamentary Committee,

Trades Hall, Dublin, September, 1900.

Dear Sir—Understanding that you have been selected for the Parliamentary representation of—, the Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress have directed us to ask if, on election, you will support in the House of Commons the undermentioned reforms, which have been called for by the organised workers of Ireland. The favour of an early reply will much oblige yours faithfully,
ALEX. BOWMAN, T.O. (Belfast), Chairman.
E. L. RICHARDSON, T.C. (Dublin), Hon. Sec.

1.—The Compulsory Application of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of

Commons (February, 1891) to all Contracts for Local Bodies in Ireland.

2.—Amendment of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, abolishing all restrictions limiting the compulsory land-acquiring powers of local authorities.

3.—Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, embracing within its scope all wage-earners; "scaffolding" to include painters' plant; abolishing the

thirty feet limit, etc.

4.—Amendment of the Merchandise Marks Act, providing for the stamping of

place of origin on all articles imported from the Continent.

5.—Abolition of Nightwork in Bakehouses.

6.—Compulsory maintenance of Workshops by all employers in Tailoring trade. 7.—Registration of Plumbers Bill; Sir Chas. Dilke's Shops Bill; Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill.

8.—Appointment of permanent Female Factory Inspector in Ireland.

9.—Establishment of Government Receiving Depot in Dublin. 10.—Old Age Pensions. Payment of Members of Parliament.

The following Members returned generally favourable replies:-Messrs. Field, Harrington, M'Cann, and Nannetti (Dublin); P. C. Doogan (E. Tyrone); J. P. Boland (S. Kerry); J. C. Flynn (N. Cork); D. MacAleese, the late (N. Monaghan); D. J. Cogan (E. Wicklow); E. M'Fadden (E. Donegal); P. A. M'Hugh (N. Leitrim); P. J. O'Shaughnessy (W. Limerick); *K. E. O'Brien (M. Tipperary); P. J. H. Carvill (Newry); W. Redmond (E. Clare); W. Lundon (E. Limerick); J. F. X. O'Brien (Cork); M. Joyce (Limerick); J. L. Carew (S. Meath); J. O'Mara (S. Kilkenny); P. O'Brien (Kilkenny); D. Sullivan (S. Westmeath); T. M. Healy (N. Louth); J. O'Dowd (S. Sligo); W. Abraham (N.-E. Cork); J. J. O'Shee (W. Waterford); T. J. Condon (E. Tipperary); Dr. R. Ambrose (W. Mayo); J. Nolan (S. Louth); J. Campbell (S. Armagh); Capt. Donellan (E. Cork); E. Crean (S.-E. Cork); J. Mooney (S. Dublin); J. J. O'Kelly (N. Roscommon); P. J. Power (E. Waterford); James O'Connor (W. Wicklow); J. Gilhooly (W. Cork); J. Boyle (W. Donegal); W. O'Malley (W. Galway); J. Roche (E. Galway); T. M'Govern (S. Leitrim). Mr. Wm. Martin Murphy, who contested N. Mayo; Mr. R. M'Ghee, S. Louth; Mr. M. Austin, W. Limerick, and a few other unsuccessful candidates, also replied favourably.

DEPUTATION TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

Shortly after the General Election, your Secretary arranged an interview between your Committee and the Chief Secretary. Wednesday, 23rd January, was the date fixed, and notwithstanding that her late Majesty had just died, Mr. Wyndham decided to keep his engagement rather than cause your Committee any inconvenience. The following is a brief resumé of your Committee's efforts, with the Chief Secretary's reply in extenso:—

On Wednesday, 23rd January, 1901, in his Office, Dublin Castle, the Chief Secretary received a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress. The deputation consisted of Messrs. A. Bowman, Belfast, chairman; J. Simmons, Dublin, vice-chairman; A. Taylor, Belfast, treasurer; J. Gibbons, J. Chambers, P.L.G.; W. J. Leahy, T.C; W. Hudson, E. L. Richardson, secretary; and H. McManus, Belfast. Mr. McCarron, Derry, was unavoidably detained in Manchester.

The following subjects were dealt with by the deputationists:—Outworking in the tailoring trade, the proposed Factories and Workshops Bill, Merchandise Marks Act, Workmen's Compensation Act, Plumbers' Registration Bill, Housing of the Working Classes Acts, the establishing of a receiving depot for War Office contracts in Ireland, dangerous trades and sanitation, the appointment of female factory inspectors, the Workmen's Compensation Act as affecting railway workers, nightwork in bakehouses, and the operation of the Fair Wages Resolution in

public contracts in Ireland.

Mr. E. L. Richardson introduced the deputation.

The Chief Secretary said—Gentlemen, before I ask you to unfold the matters to which you wish to draw my attention, I desire to say we are met to-day under depressing circumstances; an overwhelming public calamity, and the memories of that noble life that has been devoted uniformly to unselfish attention to duty, must to-day, I think, be filling all minds almost to the exclusion of all other considerations. My natural impulse at first was to postpone the deputation, but when I remembered that some of you gentlemen have come up to the capital from the provinces, and also that in the first communication that reached me from Mr. Richardson he asked me to give as long notice as I could of the day on which it would be convenient that you should assemble here, it occurred to me that I would be putting you to very great inconvenience if at the last moment the arrangements were departed from. In fact, I think we may say that we are showing respect for the memory of our late beloved sovereign by adhering to the principle she followed during her life—that of not allowing considerations such as

these, grave and pressing as they are, to prevent us from continuing what is a public duty. Having said that, I can only say that I will give my best attention to the considerations which so representative a body of Irishmen may urge upon my notice.

Mr. Richardson said the deputation were there on behalf of the Irish Trades Congress, and the gentlemen present were speaking for about fifty thousand of the organised workers of Ireland. They would bring before him some of the decisions arrived at by their Congress, which they hoped he would, in his capacity as representative of the Government, at some time or other be able to give effect to.

Mr. Alexander Bowman thanked the Chief Secretary, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, for having received them in spite of the trouble and calamity which had befallen the State. It was true that it would have inconvenienced them if at the last moment the arrangement previously made had not been carried out, but, if it had not been, the members of the deputation could have sympathised with the change of plans under the circumstances. The matters which he desired to speak upon first of all were dangerous trades and sanitation. They did not come there to find fault with the administration of the law as it was at present carried out so much as to call attention to the fact that with the present machinery it was absolutely impossible to adequately supervise the factories and workshops in this country. He wished to attract attention to trades which were not dangerous by reason of dangerous or unfenced machinery being employed, but dangerous because of the vegetable, textile, or mineral dust generated. Consumption, which was one of the most terrible scourges that the people groaned under, was largely occasioned by bad ventilation and the prevalence of dust where large bodies of men and women were compelled to work from morning till night. He did not want anything done to injure a trade already sufficiently handicapped, but where imperfect ventilation existed the inspector should be asked to exercise greater diligence in having it improved. They wanted additional zeal put forth, not by the inspectors, because they were doing all they could, but by the Administration in increasing the number of those officers. There was a crying necessity for female inspectors, having regard to the fact that when bad sanitary conditions prevailed women workers were loth to complain except to members of their own sex. They had not one female inspector in Ireland, yet in Belfast alone there were between fifty and sixty thousand women employed every day.

Mr. John Simmons called attention to the resolution asking the Government to pass a Bill making the employment compulsory by all corporate and administrative bodies of none but registered plumbers in the execution of any work, either done direct or by contract. He said great stress was laid in Dublin on having only competent plumbers appointed for sanitary inspection, and this was favoured by Sir Charles Cameron, Dr. E. J. M'Weeney, and other authorities. He held it was mainly due to the agency of bad plumbing work that there was so much disease in Dublin. Unless plumbers had to face a course of examination it would be better to have no plumbers at all. Houses were being built in Dublin which were a danger to human life. Dealing with the Workmen's Compensation Act, he said their opinion was that it should be so amended as to include all wageearners, and that when employers insured themselves against liability under the Act more efficient inspection should be exercised by the Home Office, in order to secure as far as possible immunity from accident for the workers. All plant used in the execution of painters' work should be deemed scaffolding; and the thirty feet limit should be erased from the Act. It was poor satisfaction for the wife when her husband was killed that the man fell only twenty feet, not thirty feet.

Mr. Hudson introduced the subject of the Workmen's Compensation Act in so far as it related to railway workers. Since the Act had been introduced very serious defects had been discovered in it, and there were exceptions affecting men whom the Act, he was sure, was originally designed to cover. Amongst these were engine-drivers, firemen, guards, brakesmen, and shunters. Another fact was that when working on lines of a private character they were outside the Act of Parliament, and were not entitled to benefits except under the civil law, in the same way as before the Act was passed. The Act should be so amended as to give a liberal interpretation to the meaning of the word "railway." He thought also that drivers of parcel vans and drays should come under the provisions of the Act so long as they were working for their employers. The difficulties in travelling

from one company's line to another brought in questions of liability which should be simplified. Private lines and sidings should certainly be included, and he hoped these necessary amendments would be incorporated in the Act. Benefit

should also be given from the date of injury.

Mr. A. Taylor called attention to the fact that the Congress had adopted the following resolution in regard to the Government Factory and Workshop Bill of last session:—"That this Congress strongly protests against the Government's proposal to alter the Factory and Workshop Act so as to permit of the 'two-shift' for women and young persons, increase of overtime, the weakening of the clauses affecting dangerous trades, laundries, bakehouses, and sanitary conditions. That, fully recognising there are industries the special requirements of which it might be difficult to specifically legislate for, we do not object to the Home Secretary being entrusted with considerable discretionary power, but we insist that this power should be vested in the Home Secretary to enable him to enforce the spirit of the Act so far as it benefits the workers; but we earnestly contend that it is a retrograde action on the part of the Government to make much of the protection which the workers had derived from the Factory Act entirely dependent on the judgment or caprice of the Home Secretary and his advisers." They objected to the "two-shift" system because it was practically the one which was in vogue from 1833 till 1850, and in regard to which the Government inspectors formed a deputation in order to have it stopped. It was injudicious and improper that women and children should leave their work at ten o'clock at night, and experience of the Workmen's Compensation Act also made it desirable that everything should be expressly stated. They also objected to the increase of overtime unless where absolutely necessary. This matter was referred to that if the Bill were revived the opinion of the workers might be known. The majority of their Parliamentary representatives agreed with the statements which had been put forward. Another important resolution had been passed at the Congress, namely—"That this Congress, while recognising the merits of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act and the care taken of the interests of agriculture by the appointment of a Minister responsible to Parliament, regrets that similar anxiety to preserve the interests of trade in the country had not been shown, and urges the Government to amend the Act by the appointment of a Minister of Trade for Ireland." A special reason for bringing this matter forward was the fact that the gentleman who represents the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department was not a member of Parliament. They could not get their grievances attended to in proper time. For instance, there was the case of the painting of the barracks in Belfast, about which complaint had been made, but before the contract was can-celled the work had been done, and the object of the Fair Wages Resolution was completely defeated.

Mr. Gibbons, in speaking of the number of night workers in bakehouses, said that this was an evil which required immediate remedy by legislation. It had been proved that this system had a most deleterious effect on the health of the workers. They claimed from the Government the introduction of legislation

in order to abolish the practice.

Mr. Chambers dealt with the Housing of the Working Classes Act and the matter of army contracts and a receiving depot for Ireland. One of the burning questions of the hour was the housing of the working classes, and the Government should assist local authorities to provide suitable dwellings for the workers. The Dublin Corporation for many years had done wonders in providing houses, but much remained to be done. The Act of 1900 should be amended. Local authorities should be empowered to borrow money at a nominal rate of interest—say one and a-half per cent.—and repayment should be spread over a larger number of years than that laid down by the Act. Power should also be vested in the local authority for the compulsory purchase of land. They were unjustly dealt with in this country by the War Office authorities. While Ireland contributed more than her share of the men and money for the maintenance of the army and navy, she did not receive a due proportion of contracts in return. The speaker alluded to the fact that the saddlery and brushmaking trades were ignored in this country, and said they wanted a receiving depot established in Ireland.

in this country, and said they wanted a receiving depot established in Ireland.

Mr. Leahy brought forward the question of the influence of the Merchandise
Marks Act in relation to the furniture trade, and complained that articles made

abroad received every protection to the detriment of the home manufacturer. While the raw material was thrown carelessly on the quayside, chairs and other articles of furniture made in Vienna had been stored for weeks. He also complained that firkins which contained first-class butter were frequently re-filled with an inferior article and sold as the butter represented by the brand. These firkins when empty should be returned to the local agent, and traders using them wrongfully should be punished. Bottles should also bear a mark or stamp of

origin.

Mr. McManus, in the absence of Mr. McCarron, the trade representative, dealt with the system of home work in the tailoring trade, which he described as a menace to the health of the public from infectious diseases, while it encouraged sweating. Outworking should be prohibited unless these places were registered, so that there should be some control by the sanitary authorities, as well as by the factory inspector. Proceeding, Mr. McManus complained of the difficulty they had in having their complaints attended to at once, and said that in the printing trade papers which were largely helped by Local Government advertisements did not comply with the Fair Wages Resolution. An abnormal clause existed in the tenders for the Stationery Office contracts, whereby the contractor was compelled to take the raw material from the Stationery Office, and to pay carriage on it both ways. This clause should be abolished, as it was an injustice to the people in other parts of the country. He urged that the material should, in all cases, be sent direct to the contractors' works, carriage paid.

Mr. Richardson drew attention to a resolution of the Congress calling upon all public boards in Ireland under the Local Government Act to put into execution the Fair Wages Resolution. A return, however, showed that out of some six hundred of these bodies a very small proportion stipulated for any condition at all in contracts paid for by public money. They desired him, as President of the Local Government Board, to induce these bodies to conform in some way with the terms laid down by the Government, thereby considerably benefiting the working classes. The speaker also complained of the manner in which many Government contractors in Ireland totally ignored the Fair Wages Resolution, and concluded by referring to a case in which a painting contractor employed "improvers," a class which was not recognised by the trade, and was actually paying the men employed upon this War Department contract less than the current rate of wages.

The Chief Secretary, in reply, said he would in the first place thank the deputation for having put the points they had urged so very clearly before him, and for having supplied him with the admirable Report of the last Irish Trade Congress, with the passages marked which bore on the subjects in which they were interested. Although there was no Minister of Trade for Ireland, he hoped they would never scruple to bring such matters before the Chief Secretary, who should do the work which might otherwise fall upon a Minister of Trade. The deputation had dealt with matters which did not come within the province of the Chief Secretary's Office-subjects which were always dealt with by the Home Secretary or the Secretary of State for War, and one of them at least by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Still, no doubt, they held, and he held too, that the Chief Secretary for the time being was a convenient channel for gaining access to the councils of the Government of the day, and he would always be glad to act in that capacity. He should guard himself by saying that since these matters were not within his province he could only move in them by way of advising and approaching his colleagues. He naturally could give no promise upon them. In respect of dangerous trades, Mr. Bowman drew attention not only to those trades which were dangerous because they were likely to inflict injury on life and limb, but which were dangerous owing to the injury caused to health, and particularly to the respiratory organs, owing to the dust and detritis from the products which were manufactured. He had taken a good deal of interest in that subject in 1892, when he was a member of the Standing Committee on Trade. He had himself often regretted that it was difficult, and, perhaps, impossible, not to draw a distinction between accidents and injuries to health, because it was so easy to prove an accident and the extent of the damage inflicted, and it was so often difficult to trace disease directly to the injurious circumstances which were to be found in some trade. But he hoped, and he thought they all hoped, that the success which had so far attended the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act would

encourage the statesmen of the future to advance and apply the principles of that measure whenever they could properly be applied. Mr. Bowman said that he was glad to hear the remark fall from him that they should be very careful in dealing with these trades, that while trying to protect the workmen from injury they should not inflict injury on the trade itself. He was glad to hear that, because in Belfast last Saturday he had the pleasure of going over some of the linen works, and he was very much interested by what he saw there, and he felt it would be very rash indeed if they did anything to imperil what was the last stronghold of that industry. And although they could not be too careful of the health of the women, still they would be far worse off if they were to handicap that industry out of existence. Modern appliances, and particularly the air fans which drew up the waste particles, would do a great deal for the health of the workers in the future. He saw them at work on a very large scale in the carpentry department of the shipping yard of Harland and Wolff, and he thought the contrivance was one of the most ingenious brought to his notice. He had noted the request for the appointment of one or more ladies as factory inspectors. He was aware that there were ladies who acted as inspectors in England, and if there were none in Ireland he thought the amount of industry in Ireland justified some such concessions. Mr. Simmons suggested that local authorities should be compelled to employ none other than registered plumbers. He thought the point of Mr. Simmons' argument was that local bodies should be forced to employ registered plumbers, and not those who were not registered. He quite agreed that a certain number of deaths and a great deal of disease might be attributed to defective sanitation, and to bad work by incompetent plumbers; there might also be attributed to the same cause something not so sad as disease—that depression of low vitality which they saw in persons who lived in places where there was miasma and where there was no wholesome air. It was questionable whether the proper remedy was to be sought in legislation, which would mean that the Imperial Parliament should dictate directly to the local bodies how they were to direct their own affairs. Though he pronounced no absolute opinion upon this, he was himself more sanguine that it was by electing the right men to local bodies that these reforms would be carried out, and not so much by selecting one gentleman rather than another as by letting all the gentlemen who presented themselves for election know that they attach more importance to some subjects than to other subjects. That was the way representative institutions worked, and, he thought, worked better than by the too frequent exercise of authority of the central Parliament over bodies popularly elected. Mr. Simmons went on to discuss the Workmen's Compensation Act, but he (the Chief Secretary) would not go in detail into the points raised, not because he did not think them important, but because they were all of one mind. Every Act of Parliament was written in language—the meaning of which was interpreted by lawyers—to bear a certain definite meaning. A measure such as the Workmen's Compensation Act, which introduced for the first time a principle which was novel, had to be carefully framed, and introduced in a sort of tentative manner, and then, if it worked well, the principle was extended and applied further than originally was thought safe. Any of those who followed the debates in Parliament over the Workmen's Compensation Act would recognise that if they had tried to do much more in the first instance than they did it was possible the measure would not be placed on the statute book in the year in which it was introduced; but the fact that they had extended the Act to agricultural labourers was a fair indication of the policy of the Government and the measure of success which might be expected to attend upon it. Therefore he would refrain from going into the interesting points raised by Mr. Hudson as to the effect of the Act on railwaymen. Some of the points that were brought forward by him were debatable, and had been debated. He had himself heard a debate on the question of the extension of the word "railway" so as to include private lines, and the proposal elicited many lamentations from coal owners, who said they would be ruined by the Act. It might be that the circumstances of last year would remove some of their fears, but he (the Chief Secretary) could give no pledge or promise in respect of this amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act. He should be very glad to know in what direction the workers who lived in Ireland wished to see that Act extended, and as to how Ireland was affected particularly-in this or that place, and to what degree-but

he thought he would be going outside his province if he were to present the Home Secretary of the day with a whole amending Act and ask him to introduce it into That would cover also the point as to van-drivers, and, in fact, the definition of the word "railway." Then Mr. Taylor drew attention to the Factories and Workshops Acts Amendment Bill, which was introduced last year by Sir Matthew White Ridley. At that time no exception was taken to the Bill in Parliament, but anyhow the Bill was dead for the moment. It was dropped last year, and if he found a similar measure was to be brought in this year he would keep a note of what had been said, and bring these observations to the notice of the proper authorities. He thought there was a great deal of danger in the Bill. It dealt with the subject of women. It dealt with the subject of women who were employed in the jam industry and fish curing. He always had thought these trades were kept out on mistaken grounds. The process of jam-making was said to be one that required to be done quickly, but that did not apply to the washing of bottles which it as largely and a said to be one that required to be done quickly, but that did not apply to the washing of bottles, which it so largely embraced, and there was no reason why those who washed bottles should be excluded. As to the question of "two shifts" and the question of the hours of women regulating the hours of men-these and other points he did not intend to make a speech upon now. They should bear in mind that every amendment of an Act, if they raised the standard of comfort too rapidly, would draw more work out of the factory and into the homes. And then they had a proposition from another member of the deputation that the Act should apply to the homes-to drive them into the factory. In that a very difficult question was opened up. The Englishman's home was his castle, and the application of the factory legislation to the home of the individual would be so great an innovation as to exclude the passage of any Bill. In respect of laundries and some bakehouses—a trade the details of which he was not familiar with things went on now that they very much regretted, and which they desired should be remedied by some prudent measure. Mr. Taylor brought before them the question of the Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1900, and urged that some further legislation should be introduced. That question was rather analogous to the one with which he had dealt earlier—as to whether it was better to legislate in order to compel local authorities to take further steps than they were prepared to take, or elect on those local bodies men that will take those steps, for in this matter of the Housing of the Working Classes Act it was a matter of knowledge to them that a great many of the local authorities did not use the powers that they now possessed, and he thought that that tended to show that they in the Imperial Parliament and they in the Trades Congress had got a little bit ahead of some of their fellows, who, perhaps, did not consider this question as carefully as they might. They should educate them up to the desired standard rather than dictate to them under penalties to take steps which they at present may consider doubtful. They could not have a system of local government in this country if the central authority were to suspend public bodies and dictate to them day after day because they did not take such advanced views as were taken by this or that Minister or by the Congress of the workers. Then the question of army contracts came up. That, of course, was a matter for the Secretary of State for War, and it was a matter of some complexity, on which he would not care to detain them at any length that afternoon. It was most necessary, of course, that the best article should be procured at what appeared to be the lowest price. There had been a great discussion recently about the acceptance of the lowest tenders in army contracts. Another consideration, he admitted, should come in, and that existed in the case of Ireland or any other part of the three kingdoms, namely, that they should have a wide area from which to procure the required article at short notice. If they limited the trade area by accepting only the lowest tenders they lost the power of accessibility in obtainment of supplies, which in times of national crisis was of great value. That, he knew, must be considered by those responsible for the procuring of materials for the army, and he was quite unable to say whether any conclusion they arrived at would issue in giving any great account of work to Ireland, but if so, he would be very glad. The saddlery trade had been named, and Mr. Chambers probably knew that was one of the hardest trades to extend. The man who sewed leather was a very specialised artisan. The trade stuck where it was, and it did not spread elsewhere. He did not know whether there was in Ireland such a leather-sewing industry as would enable

them to deal with contracts of a sufficient size, but certainly if there was, that was a matter they should bring to the attention of the Directors of Contracts in the War Office. Mr. Leahy spoke about the Merchandise Marks Act and its effect on the raw material as contrasted with furniture. It was a somewhat technical subject, and he would feel obliged if they would leave him the paper from which Mr. Leahy spoke. Mr. Leahy then urged that the Act should be applied to bottles. He (Chief Secretary) was not aware that they were excluded, and he would be very glad to consider the reasons for the exclusion. He thought he had dealt incidentally with what Mr. McManus had urged in respect to the tailoring trade, which was covered by the rather general observations made earlier. Mr. Richardson drew attention to the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons, and to the return moved for by Sir Charles Dilke last session. He (Chief Secretary) saw by that return that in five of the cities of this country the Corporations were observing the spirit of the resolution. Waterford he saw was omitted. But in respect of that matter he could only repeat what he had said before, that the Local Government Board had no power to interfere with the popularly elected That was a part of local self-government which was now within the competence, not only of the town councils, but of all county councils, and as the Local Government Board had no power and no right to interfere, he thought it would be unwise to dictate to a free country in the way of suggestion. He thought the Government of the day had shown what should take place by accepting that Resolution in 1891, and by acting upon it in a way that gave general satisfaction as a whole. They set that example to local bodies, and he hoped they would imitate it. The matter rested with them, and with those who constituted those bodies when electing members upon them. Reference had been made with regard to having a Minister for Trade in this country. Until that day came they must allow him to endeavour, as he had that afternoon, to give his best attention to matters placed before him. He doubted whether a Minister of Trade for Ireland would be appointed in any near session. To constitute a new department would mean a large charge of money in respect to the Irish Government, and if they could get £150,000 a year, which would be needed for a new department, they might be able to apply it with the old machinery to better advantage.

The deputation having expressed their thanks for the courtesy shown by

Mr. Wyndham, then withdrew.

DIRECT LABOUR ON ROADS.

Regarding the resolution moved by the Thurles delegate on this question (p. 37 last year's Report), your Committee were advised, when interviewing the Chief Secretary, that he had arranged to make a statement to a deputation from the Limerick County Council on the following Saturday. Consequently, beyond making Mr. Wyndham acquainted with the decision of Congress, your Committee thought it needless to press the matter further at that time. The Chief Secretary's statement to the Limerick deputation, your Committee are glad to say, was entirely satisfactory, the terms of the Congress resolution being practically conceded, and the Provisional Order which will authorise the county and other councils of Ireland to employ labour direct on the public roads will, it is believed, become law this session.

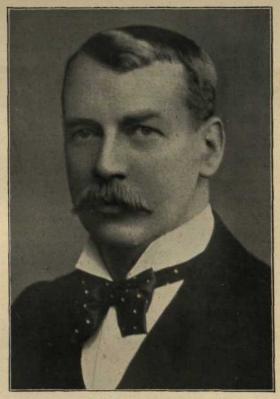
IRISH PUBLIC BOARDS AND THE FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION.

Your Committee had under consideration the Parliamentary return, obtained by Sir Charles Dilke, which shows how far the Fair Wages Resolution is observed by public bodies in Ireland. They find that of 30 boards of town commissioners not one has provided any condition as to the observance of fair wages, &c., by their contractors; of 159 boards of guardians only 9 insist that their work shall be done under fair conditions; of 84 urban district councils 74 lay down no rule; of the 212 rural district councils 190 follow the same course. Ten only of 33 county councils have inserted in their contracts conditions of one sort or another; so also have all the county borough councils except Waterford. In this state of facts, your Committee considered the advisability of circularising the boards, pointing out the terms of the House of Commons Resolution of February, 1891, the Congress resolution, and the resolution adopted by the National Convention last year; but upon counting the cost they felt themselves unable to undertake the work until Congress gave them definite instructions and adequate funds. The importance of this question to the trades cannot be overrated.

SHOP HOURS ACT.

Early in February, Lord Avebury (formerly Sir John Lubbock) secured the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Lords to inquire into the hours of labour in shops, and on the 29th of March your Secretary was summoned to give evidence. The following newspaper report gives concisely the gist of his statement:—

Mr. E. L. Richardson, of Dublin, was called and examined. He said he had been for years President of the Trades Council and a member of the Corporation of Dublin. He was now Honorary Secretary to the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress and Local Correspondent to the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. He had nearly twenty years' practical experience of the Labour movement in Ireland, and claimed to know something of the demands of the workers. For over ten years he had been a delegate to the Dublin Trades Council, which represented about eighteen thousand of the organised workers of the capital. That body had upon numerous occasions passed resolutions in favour of the earlier closing of shops. He had been many times deputed to wait upon the proprietors of shops to induce them to close early, and had taken part in many meetings in favour of the reform. He emphatically declared that it was the fixed opinion of the workers of all Ireland that in the interests of shop assistants Parliament must necessarily interfere if the desired relief from overassistants Parlament must necessarily interfere if the desired refer from over-work and excessive hours of labour is to be obtained. He handed in copies of resolutions unanimously adopted by the Irish Trades Congress in Dublin, 1894; in Waterford, 1897; in Belfast, 1898; and again in Dublin, last year, in support of his statement. The Congress was in favour of compulsory closing, as provided by the terms of the Shops Bill, of which Sir Charles Dilke had charge, and at their request one of the members for Dublin had backed the Bill. Mr. Richardson their request one of the members for Dubin had backed the Bill. Mr. Richardson further stated that, in obedience to the direction of the Trades Congress, his committee had put the question—"Will you support in the House of Commons Sir Charles Dilke's Shops Bill?" to all candidates for Irish constituencies at the late general election. They had received satisfactory replies from over sixty elected members. The fact that so many resolutions had been adopted by representative gatherings of workingmen sufficiently indicated that they were satisfied no inconvenience would arise either to themselves or their families by the passage of the Bill. No voluntary action would in their onlying by effective. of the Bill. No voluntary action would, in their opinion, be effective. No later than Saturday evening last the Belfast Trades Council, and on Monday evening the Dublin Trades Council, again passed resolutions for compulsory closing. Mr. Richardson further quoted from returns he had obtained from the officials of the Dublin Corporation regarding the operation of the present Shop Hours Act, which showed that from ninety to one hundred hours was not an uncommon week's work for young people under eighteen engaged in the distributing industries. "When that was the state of affairs as regards young people, for whose protection the Shop Hours Act was passed," said Mr. Richardson, "your lordships may imagine what the ordinary shop assistant, whom the law does not know, has to endure."



E. L. RICHARDSON (DUBLIN),
Secretary of the Congress and the Parliamentary Committee.

ORGANISING MEETING AT SLIGO.

In order to facilitate the local reception committee in the work of preparation, your Chairman (Mr. Bowman) delivered a lecture in the Town Hall, Sligo, on 10th March, under the presidency of the Mayor (Alderman Foley), on "The Labour Movement, with special reference to the work of the Irish Trades Congress." The meeting was a great success, and was addressed by local speakers, your Secretary, and Mr. Hugh McManus, the latter gentleman travelling specially from Waterford in order to assist. For this, as well as his valued aid at the Chief Secretary's interview, the Committee return him thanks.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bills dealing with Old Age Pensions, Merchandise Marks, Workmen's Compensation, Factories and Workshops, Shops (Early Closing), Housing of Working Classes, Registered Plumbers, Bakehouses, Steam Engines (Persons in Charge), Sale of Drink to Children, and other matters for which Congress has called, have been introduced by private members, but in consequence of the Government taking all the time of the House there is no possibility of any of these measures, with the probable exception of the Sale of Drink to Children Bill, reaching the Statute Book this session. The Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill secured second reading on 1st May, and has been referred to a Select Committee.

With regard to the Children's Bill (see p. 44 last year's Report), your Committee note with satisfaction that our President of last year (Mr. George Leahy, P.L.G.) and Councillor Gageby, a valued fellow-delegate, took part in the influential Irish deputation which waited on the Chief Secretary at the House of Commons, on 2nd May, to urge the Government to grant facilities for the passage of this measure. It was read a second time on the 20th March by an overwhelming majority, the resolution adopted by Congress being

referred to during the debate.

Your Committee wish to point out that the Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Act, passed in the last Parliament, which extends the provisions of the principal Act to agricultural labourers, comes into force upon 1st July next. This is an advance of importance, and illustrates the necessity of agitating until the Act is extended to all wage-earners, and amended in the manner indicated by Congress.

Your Committee received a cordial invitation to send representatives to the Scotch Trades Congress, which held its fifth session at Paisley on April 27-30, but, for obvious reasons, they were regretfully unable to accept. They, however, reciprocated the compliment by guaranteeing that an Irish welcome would be extended to the repre-

sentatives of the Scotch Congress by the men of Sligo.

Your Committee note that the case of Leathem v. Craig has been argued before the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords on 15th, 17th, 20th, and 21st inst. At the time of going to press with this Report their lordships' judgment had not been delivered.

Your Committee are not unmindful of the assistance rendered Irish trade unionists in Parliament by Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. J. P. Nannetti, Mr. W. Field, Sir Charles Dilke, and other Members, to whom they desire to convey their thanks.

Their acknowledgments are also due, and are hereby tendered, to the Press, of all shades of opinion, for the generally impartial manner in which the proceedings of the Congress and of your Com-

mittee have been considered.

In conclusion, they trust that, whatever their shortcomings may have been during the past twelve months, they may be credited with the desire to perform their functions with zeal and attention, anxious only for the well-being of the Irish workers and the success of the Irish Trades Union Congress.

(Signed),

ALEX. BOWMAN, Chairman. JAMES CHAMBERS, P.L.G. JOHN SIMMONS, V.-Chairman. JOHN GIBBONS. ALEX. TAYLOR, Treasurer. WALTER HUDSON. JAMES M'CARRON, T.C. W. J. LEAHY, T.C.

Sligo, May 24, 1901.

E. L. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

Mr. Collins (Dublin) asked for some information in regard to the case of Leathem v. Craig—had it been brought to the House of

Mr. RICHARDSON said, so far as the present Parliamentary Committee were concerned, they had received absolutely no instructions from the Congress of last year. The case, however, was at present before the House of Lords, and had been under argument for some days. He understood no decision had yet been given by their lordships, and consequently the case was sub judice.

THE PRESIDENT said, as the matter was sub judice, no good

pupose could be served by discussing it any further.

Mr. WALKER (Belfast) said, if a new trial were ordered, the trade unionists of Ireland should contribute liberally to have the

matter fought out.

THE PRESIDENT assured Mr. Walker that the Parliamentary Committee would do all they could to safeguard the interests of Irish workers in the matter, and he wished to say that the way to enable the Committee to do that was to strengthen their hands when they made an appeal.

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast). - And also to place before trade union-

ists the details of the case.

Mr. Hudson (Dublin).—Is it not true that this case is presently under the direction of the Parliamentary Committee of the

British Trades Union Congress?

THE PRESIDENT.—It is true and it is not true. It is not under their direction, but we have had sustenance and assistance in the prosecution of this case from British trade unionists through the medium of their Parliamentary Committee. We got something like £180 or £200 from British trade unionists to assist us in the fight.

Councillor PRENDERGAST (Limerick) referred to the correspondence between the Committee and the Executive of the Federal Union of Bakers with regard to Nightwork in Bakehouses Bill. He contended that the Committee should carry out the instructions of Congress without imposing conditions upon the trades affected.

Mr. RICHARDSON, in reply, read letter from Councillor Prendergast, as secretary of the Federal Union, in which it was suggested that one or two members of the Parliamentary Committee should attend in London in the event of the Bill coming on, and adding: "If success attend your efforts, you can feel easy regarding the cost."

THE PRESIDENT said the Parliamentary Committee did what was in their power. The sending of a deputation to London to lobby members involved a considerable amount of expense. The Committee had not the means to send that deputation to London. If they had the means, they would have the power to give effect to any resolution passed by the Congress, but they had not the funds.

Several delegates urged that the Committee should be given

full power to act in these matters.

Alderman CAVE (Cork) said he saw a recommendation in the Parliamentary Committee's Report in connection with the Cork Exhibition. As a member of its executive, he assured them it would be a great success. He felt very grateful and very thankful to the Parliamentary Committee for the warm manner in which they had taken up the question, which was so dear to all of them. When the proposed Exhibition was brought under the notice of the various trades in Cork, they warmly supported the project. They understood that, by promoting Irish industries, it would play an important part in putting a stop to emigration, which was taking from their land the flower of the country-its bone and its sinew. He was sure that the great representation they had there that day of Irish workers would give Cork every assistance they could to make the Exhibition a magnificent success, and worthy of Ireland. They expected from the delegates and the trades they represented both moral and financial support in the undertaking. He trusted the Exhibition would result in resuscitating and bringing into life their languishing industries, which was the object for which it had been started. It had received the highest patronage in the land. The Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction had also given great support to the Exhibition, which would be a means of educating their people and furnishing them with factories, and encouraging manufactures they never had before.

Councillor Gageby formally moved the adoption of the Report.
Mr. George Leahy (Dublin), in seconding the resolution, paid
a compliment to the Parliamentary Committee. Since the Irish
Trades Union Congress had been established, no more able or satisfactory report had been submitted to a meeting of Congress. The
Parliamentary Committee deserved the best thanks of the trade
unionists of Ireland.

Alderman Kelleher (Cork), in supporting the resolution, said the Cork Exhibition was a national question, and was intended to benefit all Ireland. All classes and creeds had joined hands to make it a success. They had at their back the highest and the lowliest in the land. The Lord Lieutenant and Lord Bandon had shown in a practical manner their sympathy with the Exhibition, while trade unionists had also given the project their patronage and their sympathy. They were sure the Exhibition would be a great success, as all classes were working harmoniously in that direction.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

TELEGRAMS.

At this stage the following telegrams were read by the Secretary:—

"To President, Trades Congress, Sligo.—Have read your masterly address with pleasure and approval.—Barklie." [Professor Barklie, M.A., Belfast.]

"To President, Trades Congress, Sligo.—Heartiest congratulations from Rescue Tent, Rechabites, Belfast, with request that your powerful and august assemblage pass resolution in favour of Sale of Drink to Children Bill. Save the children.—M'CORMACK, Secretary, 86 Joy Street."

THE BUILDING TRADES.

Mr. WALKER, P.L.G. (Belfast), moved :-

"That in the opinion of this Congress the hours of labour in the building trades in Ireland are excessive, and it urges representatives of all sections of the building trades here present to impress upon their fellow-members in the provincial towns the desirability of adopting a maximum working week of fifty-four hours, and where possible less."

Alderman Dovle (Dublin), in seconding the resolution, said the maximum hours should be fifty-four, with, perhaps, a minimum of forty-four. They wanted fifty-four hours in local and urban districts, and a less number in the big centres, where rent was very high and

expenses far in excess of what existed in the country.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

DIRECT LABOUR ON ROADS.

Councillor M'CARTHY, P.L.G. (Thurles), moved :-

"That this Congress urges upon the Parliamentary representatives of the country the desirability of amending the Local Government Act so that the public and main roads may be worked by direct labour." He said the labouring classes were the worst treated in the country.

Councillor W. J. LEAHY (Dublin), in seconding the resolution,

said he hoped it would be carried out in its entirety.

Mr. Richardson (Dublin) said if Mr. M'Carthy would be good enough to look at page 15 of the Parliamentary Committee's Report he would see that something had been done in the direction indicated by his resolution. He did not know but that by adopting this resolution they would be doing a work of supererogation. In the

resolution they were asking the representatives of the country to amend the Local Government Act. As a matter of fact, a Provisional Order, formulated by the present Government, had been before the boards of the country for their opinion, and it was at the present time in course of passage through Parliament. This Order would carry out the object Mr. M'Carthy desired to accomplish.

Mr. Collins (Dublin) said, before adopting this resolution, it

might be useful to know what good would be derived from it.

Mr. M'Carthy said he was astonished at any delegate asking such an extraordinary question. Direct labour would mean a great

boon to the workers.

Mr. Chambers, P.L.G. (Dublin), said the conditions under which labourers in the country existed were simply deplorable. At a meeting he was invited to address in Wexford he found that many agricultural labourers there were paid only four shillings a week. After paying, say, a shilling a week for house accommodation, it was preposterous to think a wife and family could be maintained on the remaining three shillings. Mr. Collins should know that in employment direct under local boards such deplorable conditions would be impossible.

Mr. M'Carthy said he had been sent there by those he represented to show they were in poverty. If the resolution he submitted was adopted, it would have a direct effect on the Government.

THE PRESIDENT pointed out that, as indicated in the Committee's Report, the Government, by Provisional Order, intended to give power to the local boards to do exactly what Mr. M'Carthy wanted. He did not think, however, there could be any harm in passing the resolution—one would strengthen the hands of the other.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

CONDITION OF LABOURERS.

Councillor M'INNES (Belfast) moved :-

"That this Congress, believing that there can be no material improvement in the condition of either the urban or agricultural labourers of this country without thorough and effective organisation, pledges itself to support, in every way possible, all efforts tending in that direction which may be made by any bona-fide trade or labour union."

Mr. John Simmons (Dublin), in seconding the resolution, said the statement made by Mr. Chambers as to agricultural labourers in Wexford receiving only the wretched pittance of four shillings a week was typical of the conditions which existed in the agricultural districts of Ireland. It was no wonder they had starvation, destitution, and poverty in the land—and these poor men had nothing to look forward to but the workhouse. The lot of the artisan was bad enough, but it was nothing to the condition of the the worker in agricultural districts. He urged on Councillor M'Innes the necessity for extending his organisation. Let him go and inspect for himself what had been described, and he would find plenty of scope for the exercise of his organising abilities, and would be willingly received.

Mr. WALKER said the condition of agricultural labourers should be brought up to that of urban district workers, and pointed out the

necessity for Councillor M'Innes organising that class.

Miss M. Galway (Belfast) complained that the Trades Council of Belfast made no serious effort to organise the women of that city. After eight years' work, she regretted to say that, out of sixty thousand female workers in Belfast, only twelve hundred were members of the Textile Operatives' Society of Ireland. If the Trades Council of Belfast were really in earnest, they should begin at home, and organise their own sisters and daughters. In the matter of wages, the women of Belfast had been cut down for the past fourteen years, and they were still going down. In Lancashire they had double the wages paid to the female workers of Belfast. Warehouse girls in the latter city received only seven shillings a week, and out of this they were expected to pay high rents and keep up a respectable appearance. If they were organised, wages would soon be increased, and they could live comfortably.

Mr. A. TAYLOR (Belfast) supported the resolution.

Mr. G. Leahy, P.L.G. (Dublin), regretted to state that quite a different state of affairs prevailed in Dublin. There they complained of the inactivity of the female workers in forwarding their own interests. The Dublin Trades Council were prepared to assist them in every way; and he wished they had in the metropolis some ladies like Miss Galway.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) said the Belfast-Trades Council had spent a great deal of money and time in trying to organise the female workers of the Northern city; but they found that many obstacles

beset the way of their accomplishing the desired object.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

MILITARY CONTRACTS.

Councillor W. J. LEAHY (Dublin) moved :-

"That this Congress of Irish workers enters its most earnest protest against the action of the military authorities in giving the contract for porter and ale to the Burton Brewery Company, in face of the well-known fact that the best porter in the world is brewed in Dublin and other parts of Ireland, and we view their action as a gross injustice to the Irish brewery industry and a serious injury to the mechanics and labourers employed in those establishments.'

He said he was directed by his trade to bring this matter under the notice of Congress. It was a great loss not only to Dublin, but to all Ireland, to have the porter and ale supplied from England to the military canteens. He felt himself very fortunate in having their Labour Member, Mr. Nannetti, and Messrs. Field, White, Healy, etc., to ask questions in Parliament on this subject. Before Mr. Brodrick had given his reply, they were well aware of the military code—that all things necessary for the supply of military barracks should, where practicable, be supplied by the town in which the troops were stationed. That code had been grossly violated every day in the year. Not only did they import the very brushes which scrubbed the horses, but they brought beef from America and frozen mutton from Australia to feed the troops stationed on the plains of the Curragh, where the very best cattle and sheep were raised. Irish whiskey, even, was brought over from England.

Mr. G. Leahy, P.L.G. (Dublin), objected to the proposer of the resolution mentioning a gentleman whose name was an offence to

trade unionists.

Councillor W. J. LEAHY .- Name?

Mr. G. LEAHY, P.L.G.-Mr. White, M.P.

Mr. P. J. Quinn (Dublin) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

Councillor M'INNES (Belfast) moved :-

"That in the opinion of this Congress it is desirable that many amendments to the clauses of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1897 should be made, particularly with reference to the scope and application of the Act; and that it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to secure all the support possible from the Irish Members for any proposed legislation granting compensation for every accident sustained by any workman in any portion of the time during which such worker would be under the orders or subject to the control of his employer; or shortening the present period of a fortnight after the accident during which no compensation is paid. That all plant used in the execution of painters' work should be deemed 'scaffolding;' and also that the thirty feet limit should be erased from the Act. That the Parliamentary Committee be further instructed to urge on the Irish and Labour Members the importance of having this matter brought under the notice of the Government."

Councillor LIDDELL (Belfast) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Comiskey (Dublin) said painters were entirely excluded under the Act. He did not know what the framers had in view when they did this. He thought, no matter what work a painter was doing, it was in the nature of "repairing a house." In a case brought by Mr. Reddy against Mr. Broderick, Dublin, the judges held painting was "repairing."

Messrs. Duignan and Hudson (Dublin) supported the resolu-

tion, which was adopted.

REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Mr. M'Manus brought up final Report on Agenda, which was adopted. He said the Committee found that the Congress consisted of seventy-three duly credentialled delegates, representing an aggregate of sixty-seven thousand trade unionists in Ireland.

THE SCOTCH DELEGATES.

THE PRESIDENT, in introducing Mr. Girvan, Vice-President, and Mr. Carson, Secretary of the Scotch Trades Congress, said, like themselves, the Scotch workers, some four or five years ago, were obliged to establish a sectional organisation, so that they could better

look after the wants of the Scotch workers. Their record since the inception of the Congress had been most satisfactory, and always progressive. In Ireland, although longer established, they had not as yet made such progress, but they hoped to emulate their Scotch friends.

Mr. Robert Girvan, who was received with cheers, then addressed the meeting at length. He said the Scotch people wished success to the Irish people, especially to the trade unionists (hear, hear). Their action in coming over proved they were keenly alive to the position in Ireland, and also approved of the action of Irish trade unionists in establishing a national Congress. The Irish Congress had been very successful up to the present, and, as far as they knew, was ever growing (hear, hear). The Scotch Congress became more successful year after year, and increased numerically as well as financially (hear, hear). At the last Congress, more than thirty thousand additional members were represented than at any previous Congress. From this it would be seen they were making excellent

progress in Scotland (applause).

Mr. George Carson said, if it were at all possible, he thought Scotch trade unionists should have a closer alliance with their friends in Ireland (hear, hear). He did not say at the present moment they could have a clearly defined working arrangement, but there were many questions common to both that they could discuss, and assist one another in. Both Congresses had done good and effective work. He hoped the Irish Congress would send representatives to the next Congress in Scotland. If they did, the two bodies might be able to frame a policy which would enable them to act together in reference to certain important questions to their mutual advantage. Their co-operation would have a powerful effect in stimulating Parliament to consider matters in which they were interested. The Government would be absolutely indifferent to these questions unless its members felt their social position was in danger.

Mr. Monro (Belfast) proposed a resolution thanking the delegates from Scotland for their attendance, and expressing sympathy with their Congress in the work it was doing for the workers of Scotland, and authorising the Parliamentary Committee to send

delegates to the next Scotch Congress.

Mr. Collins (Dublin), in seconding the motion, declared that, in the interest of trade unionists, the workers of both countries would be benefited by a common policy.

The resolution was passed amid applause.

IMPORTATION .- SHIPBUILDING.

Alderman Doyle (Dublin) moved :-

"That this Congress deplores the continued importation of brasswork, joinery, ironwork, manufactured bottles, and railway stock, and we call upon all public bodies, clergymen, architects, engineers, brewers and distillers, and licensed vintners to encourage home industries by insisting on having all articles required to carry on their business manufactured in Ireland, and thereby stimulate Irish industries, as the practice of procuring these articles from foreign manufacturers is detrimental to both the skilled and unskilled workers of our country. That in the opinion of this Congress the shipbuilding industry in Ireland does not receive the support from the Government it is entitled to."

He commented upon the fact that architects put in their specifications a requirement for brasswork of a certain kind, which excluded Irish brassworkers, whose work after test had been found to be well up to the standard, and in some instances excelled foreign-manufactured goods. The importation of carriages deserved nothing but the strongest condemnation, for it struck at the root of that industry in Ireland. He did not think it was asking too much of the railway companies to establish their own workshops in the country from which they derived their revenue. Quite recently the Midland Railway Company had imported a large quantity of rolling stock. They should strongly support the bottle industry. The persistent importation of joinery was also a serious matter.

Mr. Holloway (Dublin), in seconding, said the brassfounding trade of Ireland was almost extinguished owing to the continued

importation of manufactured brasswork.

Mr. Duignan (Dublin) said that in his boyhood's days they had some splendid brassfounding shops in Dublin, but now they had only one. As brassfounders, they should condemn their clergy in the strongest manner for not seeing that the brasswork they used was manufactured in Ireland. It was imported from Munich and other places. It might be a bit more ornamental, it looked very well, but they could not touch anything so flimsy.

Messrs. Murray and O'Neill (Dublin), Ryan (Cork), and Walker (Belfast) having spoken on the importation of bottles.

tramcars, and joinery,

Alderman Kelleher (Cork) said those seeking municipal or other honours should be pledged to support home industry.

Mr. A. TAYLOR moved the closure. Division-12 for, 18 against.

Discussion resumed by

Mr. Comskey (Dublin), who said that while he, of course, supported the motion, he could not understand the inconsistency of delegates who came to the Trades Congress to protest against importation of manufactured work, while in their own districts they went on platforms and helped into public positions men who were notoriously guilty of the very system condemned. In the metropolis they had importers of scab labour and shop fronts supported and placed in positions on public boards by Labour men. It was a lamentable thing to have Labour representatives supporting a class of men so objectionable to trade unionists. So long as this kind of thing went on, so long would they have importation.

Mr. Chambers (Dublin) said one of the worst questions they had to deal with was that of importation. In some shops in Dublin goods were placarded as being Irish manufacture, whereas they were

imported from sweating dens on the other side of the Channel.

At this stage the closure was again moved, and agreed to, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

SIR CHARLES DILKE'S SHOPS BILL.

Mr. James O'Connor (Dublin) proposed, and Mr. C. O'LYHANE

(Cork) seconded, and it was resolved :-

"That this Congress reiterates its opinion that the earlier closing of shops, and the consequent relief from excessive hours of labour at present endured by a large number of male and female shop assistants, can only be brought about by compulsory early closing; and we again instruct the Parliamentary Committee to make every effort to secure the passing of Sir Charles Dilke's Shops

Bill at present before Parliament."

Mr. RICHARDSON (Dublin) said, having taken some interest in the matter as Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee, he had given evidence before the Select Committee in the House of Lords appointed to inquire into the hours of labour in shops. He wished to point out that there were two bills in Parliament, opposed to each other, on the subject—one made early closing compulsory, while the other was simply voluntary. He believed, unless they got a compulsory Act a voluntary Act would not be successful.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY.

THE PRESIDENT here announced that Mr. E. L. Richardson (Dublin) was the only candidate nominated for the Secretaryship of the Parliamentary Committee, and he was accordingly unanimously elected.

Mr. RICHARDSON suitably acknowledged the compliment. Congress then adjourned.

TRIP TO LISSADELL.

In the afternoon the delegates drove to Lissadell, the beautiful residence of Sir Jocelyn Gore-Booth, Bart., where they were hospitably entertained by the Sligo Reception Committee.

THIRD DAY.

Congress entered upon the concluding day of its deliberations at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Mr. ALEXANDER BOWMAN presided.

WATER GAS.

Mr. A. Boyd (Belfast) moved :-

"That as water gas is admittedly much more poisonous, and thus more dangerous to the public health, than coal gas, and as there is much less attention given to the plumbing work in the houses of the working classes than in those of the well-to-do, be it resolved that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to take the requisite steps to have the proportion of water gas in relation to coal gas kept within such bounds that the public safety may be secured, by compelling local authorities to so enforce the Public Health Acts as to prevent the vendors of such commodity from supplying anything which has been proved and certified to be deleterious to the health of the community."

Mr. Robert Herson (Belfast) seconded the motion, which was

unanimously adopted.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

Mr. Nolan (Dublin) proposed, Councillor Leahy seconded, and

it was resolved :-

"That this Congress calls on the Government to amend the Merchandise Marks Act so as to have the mark of origin stamped on all bottles coming into these countries from the Continent."

THE WELSH COLLIERY DISASTER.

Mr. RICHARDSON said that the Parliamentary Committee, having carefully considered Mr. Walker's resolution, recommended that a voluntary subscription should be taken up in aid of the relatives of the victims of the Welsh colliery disaster, and that the sum collected be handed to the Chairman of the Committee, to be transmitted to the proper quarter in the name of the Congress.

Mr. G. LEAHY, P.L.G. (Dublin), proposed, and Mr. Duignan

(Dublin) seconded: "That the recommendation be adopted."

Mr. WALKER (Belfast) proposed, and Mr. M'DEVITT (Belfast) seconded, as an amendment: "That the Congress contribute £5 from

the funds of the Parliamentary Committee."

Mr. TAYLOR (Treasurer) said the Parliamentary Committee could not afford to give their funds to any object other than the forwarding of the Irish Trades Union Congress, but voluntarily they could give what they liked. The Parliamentary Committee had only £64 to carry on the work of the year, and it could not give £5, but they could give their sympathy, and what they wished out of their own pockets.

Councillor GAGEBY (Belfast) agreed with the recommendation

of the Committee.

Mr. J. Murphy (Belfast) said there seemed to be an easy way out of the difficulty, namely, that if the voluntary contributions did not reach £5, the balance should be contributed out of the funds of the Congress.

Mr. WALKER, P.L.G. (Belfast), said he would withdraw his

amendment in favour of Mr. Murphy's.

Mr. Murphy then proposed, and Mr. Herson seconded: "That the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee be adopted, provided that the Committee supply any deficit under £5 of the voluntary contributions of the delegates."

Mr. Collins (Dublin) proposed, and Mr. Nichol (Belfast)

seconded: "That the Congress subscribe £4."

The Parliamentary Committee accepted Mr. Murphy's amendment.

Mr. Collins' motion was defeated on a division. The collection amounted to £3 16s. 6d.

RAILWAYMEN'S WORK.

Mr. W. Hudson (Dublin) moved :-

"That this Congress views with deep concern the delay in the putting into operation of the Railway (Prevention of Accidents) Act, considering the findings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry, as embodied in their report to Parliament, including the specially forcible statement that 'lives that could be saved are lost, and men are injured unnecessarily.' The withholding from the railwaymen -who are engaged in the most dangerous occupations of any of the industrial classes employed on land-the beneficial protection intended by the Legislature for the greater safety of life and limb creates grave cause for alarm in the minds of all classes of the working community. We further wish to state that we are not satisfied by the answers of the President of the Board of Trade to Mr. R. Bell, M.P., the representative of railwaymen in the House of Commons, that there is anxiety or energetic efforts on the part of those responsible to put the Act in force at an early date. the opinion of this Congress excessive hours of duty of railwaymen are a standing danger to the travelling public and the men concerned, and in view of the disregard of railway companies to adopt systematic working arrangements within reasonable limits, we declare it to be necessary that the Railway Regulation Act of 1893 should be so amended as to give power to the Board of Trade to make periodical inquiry into the hours of duty of employes on all railways by practical inspecting officers."

He said that it was decidedly objectionable that complaints should have to be made by railway servants. After making a complaint their time with the company would not be a happy one. What they desired was that the responsibility for making complaints should rest with an officer of the Board of Trade, who would have power to go through the country and make inquiries, and if he found that the hours were excessive he should complain, first to the railway companies, and then to the President of the Board of Trade, with a view to bringing about a re-scheduling of the hours of labour. The railway servants had more grievances perhaps than most trades, but they were placed in a position of not being able to make them

known.

Mr. Travis (Manorhamilton) seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

UNPAID MAGISTRATES.

Mr. WALKER, P.L.G. (Belfast), moved:

"That this Congress declares that the law requires amendment in respect to the adjudication of the lay, or unpaid, magistrates in all cases brought under the Masters and Servants Act, Factory Acts, or actions between employer and employed under the Summary Jurisdiction or Petty Sessions (Ireland) Acts—all of which cases ought to be decided by duly qualified stipendiary magistrates."

Mr. Nichol (Belfast) seconded the motion, which was passed

unanimously.

WORKINGMEN MAGISTRATES.

Mr. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast) moved:

"That in the opinion of this Congress the continued refusal of the Lord Chancellor to appoint, or Lord Lieutenants of counties to recommend, workingmen to the commission of the peace is a grievance to the entire working community; and we hereby instruct the Parliamentary Committee to bring this matter not merely under the direct cognisance of the Lord Chancellor, but that the Lord Lieutenants of the several counties or county boroughs should have placed before them the names of two or more of each county or county borough who in the opinion of the Parliamentary Committee are competent to administer equity; and that the M.P.'s of all Ireland should have their attention called to this matter, and also to the course adopted by the Lord Chancellor of England."

He said, until they had workingmen on the bench the labouring classes could not expect fair play. Resident magistrates, while they might be skilled in the trickery and chicanery of the law, and were not open to the exercise of influence, still were not favourable to the working classes. What the workers desired was that the employers of to-day should not be sitting in judgment on the workers to-morrow. In trade questions, the present system worked most unsatisfactorily.

Mr. M'DEVITT (Belfast) seconded.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Dublin) said, perhaps the workers had not looked very far into this question. If a workingman was appointed a justice of the peace, he would have to pay six guineas fees before he got his commission. He did not think many workingmen would be disposed to accept the job on those conditions.

Mr. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), said the question had been fought out in England, and that the commission of the peace had been con-

ferred on workingmen who refused to pay the fees.

Mr. Richardson.—And are we to fight this question out in Ireland?

Mr. WALKER thought they should fight it out.

THE PRESIDENT said he feared they had not resources enough just yet to fight the question out. Possibly before the matter would come to fruition they would have more money at their disposal.

Mr. Chambers, P.L.G. (Dublin), said he thought many of them would be stultifying themselves if they accepted the resolution, as they did not want J.P.-ships. He would be surprised if this motion passed without some protest from delegates who posed as advanced politicians in Dublin.

On a division, the resolution was adopted by 36 to 14.

THE "LEINSTER LEADER" DISPUTE.

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast) moved :-

"That this Congress regrets to learn that the dispute between the members of the Typographical Association and the management of the Leinster Leader (Naas) is still unsettled; that the importation of alien and non-union labour to displace legitimate tradesmen does not tend to harmony of relations between employer and employed; that the workers in any firm have a right to interview the management by deputation for the purpose of redressing serious complaints made on their behalf; that the sub-letting and exportation from Ireland of local government printing does not conduce to the extension of Irish industrial development; and we are also of opinion that Mr. James L. Carew, M.P., has been misled and absolutely misinformed with regard to the exact facts of the origin of this dispute, and that the promises made to the Dublin Trades Council

deputation have not been realised."

He said that the dispute with the Leinster Leader arose from the advertising for imported labour, which was invariably non-union, for the office. Remonstrance after remonstrance was made by those working in the office and by him (Mr. M'Manus) against this practice; but the system of displacement and importation continued. At length the tension became unbearable. A person from the South of Ireland who had hitherto worked in a notoriously non-union office was brought up to Naas, and a few days previously another person had also been engaged, to assume a responsible position in the office, who had been taken from a firm that had gained some publicity, if not notoriety, in Ireland. The men working in the establishment remonstrated against the employment of this man, but no attention was paid to their remonstrances. The companionship in the locality had frequently brought the grievances under which the men laboured to the notice of the manager, who would only consent to receive them individually. The men would not agree with this arrangement on that occasion, and they came away. A telegram was sent to him after the men had been on the street, and he tried to make peacebut the manager refused to see him. During this time there was not a single line printed, and there was not a single word uttered by him, antagonistic to Mr. Carew, although he strongly animadverted upon the action of the manager. Mr. Carew would not in any way aid these men when he found the position they were in. The work that was paid for by different local boards in Irish counties, from Irish rates, was actually exported and done in England. He had made full inquiries with regard to this exportation of Irish local government printing. The registry of voters for the current year was produced in England, long months after the Leinster Leader dispute could have been settled, if Mr. Carew had carried out his promise. The matter was brought before the Dublin Trades Council. who gave him (Mr. M'Manus) great assistance. The proprietor of the Leinster Leader promised, in an interview, that the office would be worked on society lines, but that promise had not been carried out. That is the reason why this Congress of the workers of Ireland is now being placed in possession of the bare facts. Even Mr. Carew is not above public opinion.

Mr. MURPHY (Belfast) seconded the motion, which was unani-

mously adopted.

STATE RAILWAYS.

Councillor M'CARBON (Derry) proposed :-

"That, in the opinion of the Irish Trades Union Congress, excessive railway freights have proved fatal to the successful development of the industries of this country, and that the time has fully arrived when the Irish railways should be owned and worked by the State, in the interests of the taxpayers, the travelling public, and the commercial and agricultural community. As a means to this end, it is desirable that the Irish Members of Parliament should press upon the Government the necessity of appointing a Special Commission, to sit and examine witnesses in Ireland, and to report to Parliament with the least possible delay."

He said, in his opinion, a compulsory measure of land purchase would bring into existence a worse class of landlords than the class they at present desired to get rid of. The farmers of the country took no interest in ameliorating the condition of the labourers. He contended the State should not only own the railways and the

mines, but the land as well.

Mr. Boyn (Belfast) seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

STATE OWNERSHIP OF LAND, MINES, ETC.

Councillor M'Carron also proposed, and Mr. Boyd seconded:—
"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has now come when all lands, mines, and railways should be owned and controlled by the State for the people; and that it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to urge on the Irish Members the desirability of supporting the Bills now before Parliament for the taxation of land values."

The resolution was adopted by 44 votes to 2.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND IRISH INDUSTRIES.

Moved by Mr. Hugh M'Manus (Belfast):-

"That in the opinion of the Irish Trades Congress the important question of the revival and retention of home industries has a material connection with the advancement of primary, normal, and technical education; we believe it is essential to the success of any movement having for its object the development of the resources of the country that the fullest scope should be given to the mental and manual training of our apprentices, artisans, tradesmen, and agriculturists, thereby equipping them to reach a higher standard of ability in the various spheres of work they may be engaged in, and thus enabling the Irish worker to command a better recompense for his skill and labour, and provide additional home comforts for himself

and his family. We again firmly insist that the workers of Ireland should have direct representation upon the Central Board of Tech-

nical Instruction."

He said, in his opinion, this was one of the most important questions submitted to this Congress. Hundreds of thousands sterling was annually spent on manufactured goods imported into Ireland, which formerly gave employment to Irish workmen. They had not kept abreast of the times in respect to technical, agricultural, and commercial systems. They should recognise that the public purchaser demands full value in work and material in every commodity placed on the market. The mere label "Irish manufacture" was not of itself sufficient—the inherent value must be there to cope with competition. Irish railway rates obstruct industrial development. Better wages must ensure better workmanship, which is always the cheapest. Their children require to be trained, and the teachers of the children also require training, in manual and technical subjects. They should have direct representation upon the Central Board to secure the best results. He thought the selfish importation of cheap labour to displace competent Irish workmen, and the exportation of work paid for out of public funds, should be sternly condemned. The system of estimating mere "output" of work, irrespective of quality of workmanship, is too often the criterion of present-day "management." These people clamour for technical education, but entirely ignore its principles.

Mr. John Simmons (Dublin), in seconding, had no hesitation in asserting that his experience as a governor of the City of Dublin Technical Schools proved that the money spent upon the technical training of the young men in the various classes in that valuable institution was returned in manifold ways. He heartily supported

the motion.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

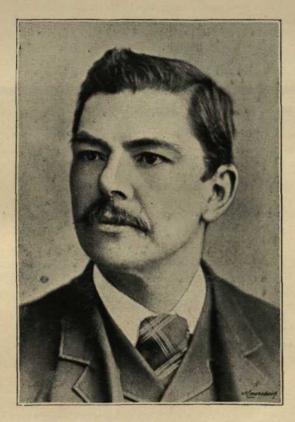
GOVERNMENT WORKSHOPS AND DEPOTS.

Mr. CHAMBERS, P.L.G. (Dublin), moved:

"That, while Ireland contributes her full share of the revenue for the maintenance of the army and navy, this Congress desires to point out to His Majesty's Government that Irish trades do not receive anything like a fair proportion of the contracts for supplies, and especially is this so in regard to the contracts for brushes and saddlery; and the Congress urges on the Parliamentary Committee to bring under the notice of the Ministers of the Crown the desirability of establishing in Ireland Government depots or workshops for the manufacture and repair of military work."

He said that in this matter the workers on the other side of the Channel were much more favourably circumstanced. In almost every military centre in England workshops were established attached to the barracks, in which civilian labour was employed under fair conditions in the manufacture and repair of every description of army stores. They were not asking too much in calling for an

extension of the system to Ireland.



HUGH McMANUS (BELFAST),
Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee.

Mr. Molony (Dublin), in seconding the resolution, complained that Irish contractors for brushes and other articles used by the troops in Ireland were seriously handicapped in competing, by reason of the centralisation of the army receiving depot at Woolwich. There should be a receiving depot in Ireland.

The motion was adopted.

OUT-WORKING IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

Councillor M'CARRON (Derry) proposed :-

"That this Congress urges upon the Parliamentary Committee the necessity of having the Factory and Workshop Act so amended as to make it imperative for all employers in the tailoring trade to provide sufficient and suitable workshops for all those in their employment, as, in our opinion, home working is the chief cause of the sweating system. Further, so long as employers are allowed to send their work to people's homes, complete and efficient workshop inspection is impossible without an enormous and absurd increase in the number of inspectors. It is also our opinion that where bedrooms or living rooms are used as workshops they become a danger to the public health, and tend to demoralise those engaged therein."

He said, so long as out-working in the tailoring trade was permitted to exist, so long would disease and death be disseminated and the efforts of the sanitary authorities frustrated. He could not see why employers in the tailoring trade should not provide similar workshop accommodation to that existing in every other trade. He hoped, in the interests of the public health, Parliament would interfere to put an end to this dangerous system.

Mr. M'DEVITT (Belfast) seconded the resolution, which was

unanimously adopted.

THE FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Mr. Nichol (Belfast) moved :-

"That it be a special instruction from the Congress to the Parliamentary Committee to keep a close watch and supervision upon the various amendments inserted in the Bills introduced into Parliament by the Home Secretary for the better regulation of the Factories and Workshops Acts; and that the Parliamentary Committee be empowered to take such measures as they may deem advisable (and the funds permit) to safeguard the interests of the workers; that clause 40 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, and sec. 38 of the Factory and Workshop Act Amendment Bill, 1901 (giving the particulars of work) be extended to all trades and occupations paid by the piece."

Miss Galway (Belfast), in seconding the resolution, complained of the methods adopted in Irish factories with regard to piecework, and trusted the inspectors would see that there was no infringement

of the clauses of the Factories and Workshops Act.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

VENTILATION OF FLAX-SORTING SHOPS.

Councillor GAGEBY (Belfast) moved :-

"That this Congress is of opinion that thorough ventilation by dust-removing fans in flax sorting and roughing shops is absolutely necessary for the health of those therein employed; and to counteract the effect of the cold current thus generated, heating apparatus

should be provided and used during the winter months."

He said he had been instructed by his society to bring this matter under their notice in order that the Congress would take steps to have the law in respect to ventilating and heating carried out. Many employers, recognising the importance of having their shops made as healthy and comfortable as possible, have spared no expense in the erection of not only the most suitable, but the latest type of this kind of machinery. But there were others, he regretted to say, who had done little or nothing, though the Act makes it compulsory upon employers to remove, as far as practicable, all dust generated in the course of the manufacturing process that may be injurious to the health of the persons employed. Besides, it stated that adequate provision must be made for the securing and maintaining of a reasonable temperature. These trades were of such a character as to be classed among the unhealthy ones, and unless the Act be given effect to the health of the workers would undoubtedly suffer, and their lives be shortened considerably. In these circumstances, he asked the serious attention of the Congress to the subject, and hoped it would not be lost sight of until the desire of the workers be accomplished.

Mr. HERSON (Belfast) seconded, and Miss M'KENNA supported,

the motion, which was adopted.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

Mr. Hudson, A.S.R.S., proposed:-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, immediate steps should be taken to secure such alteration in the law as shall enable relatives of railwaymen and other workmen who meet their death while following their employment to be represented at coroners' inquests by trade union officials, or other expert persons whom they may select, as is now done under the Mines Act, by which means fuller investigations will be possible, and abuses brought to light which are now obscured by the lack of technical knowledge on the part of those involved in the inquiries."

He related his experience at the inquiry into the recent railway accident at Tralee, and the coroners' inquests in Dublin and elsewhere, and contended that officials of trade societies to which the maimed or deceased members belonged, and who possessed technical knowledge of the causes of accident or death, should have the right

to examine witnesses at such inquiries or inquests.

Mr. H. M'Manus seconded the motion, which was adopted.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE INSPECTORS.

Mr. Egan (Cork) moved :-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, it is of importance that practical coachmakers should be appointed to the position of hackney carriage inspectors, as we believe it is against the interests alike of the public and the coachmakers that inexperienced police officers should hold such positions.

The motion was seconded by Alderman Kelleher (Cork), and

passed.

WORK IN SLACK SEASONS.

Councillor LIDDELL (Belfast) moved :-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, very much hardship and inconvenience accrues (which might be completely obviated, or at least much reduced, in many trades which cannot be called season's trades) by the prevailing practice of hurrying up work at one part of the year, and thus causing idleness for a considerable period from time to time; and that it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to consider whether it can devise some means of influencing public boards and Government departments where this practice prevails."

Mr. Comiskey (Dublin) seconded.

Mr. Monro (Belfast) and Councillor M'Innes contended that the motion was not a practical one, and urged that the trade affected should devise a scheme for meeting the complaint, instead of throwing it on the Parliamentary Committee.

The resolution was adopted, Messrs. Monro and M'Innes

objecting.

TINPLATE-WORKERS AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Mr. RICHARDSON (for the Dublin Tin and Metal Plate Workers)

formally moved :-

"That this Congress respectfully calls upon all corporate and public bodies throughout Ireland to have their tin and metal plate work executed in fair houses, or by regular workmen on their own premises."

Councillor LIDDELL (Belfast) seconded the resolution, which

was unanimously adopted.

TWO YEARS OF OFFICE FOR LORD MAYOR.

Mr. Egan (Cork) moved :-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the practice of holding the office of lord mayor or mayor for two years in succession is an injury to the coachmaking trade and others, as it deprives many men of employment in the winter time, when work is most needed; and that it is the duty of trades councils, where this practice prevails, to insist on candidates seeking municipal honours being pledged to vote against the practice."

He said he was glad to know that this practice, which was injurious especially to the coachmaking trade, was dying out, mainly because public opinion was setting in the direction indicated by the

resolutions previously adopted by the Congress and by the trades

councils of Dublin and elsewhere.

Mr. G. Leahy, P.L.G. (Dublin), said the resolution had been frequently adopted by various trades. It was most injurious to trade to have a lord mayor occupying the position for two or more years in succession in large cities such as Dublin. The fitting up of equipages, etc., gave a great deal of employment, and by adopting the principle of only one year in office trade would be much benefited, as each succeeding lord mayor would have his vehicles, etc., renovated. The Dublin Trades Council had adopted a similar resolution.

Mr. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), said he was directed by the Belfast Trades Council to oppose the resolution. If the electorate of Cork wished that their lord mayor should retain office for one year only, the matter was in their own hands. They held that Cork had no right to have a mandate from the Congress favouring such a principle as that set forth in the resolution. The matter should be dealt

with locally. He moved the previous question.

Mr. Monro (Belfast) seconded; on a division it was lost by

18 to 11.

Mr. Chambers, P.L.G. (Dublin), said this question had been constantly before the Dublin Trades Council, who were fighting against giving two years of office in succession to any man. Their reason for adopting the principle was not a political one, but was in the interests of the trades affected.

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast) opposed the resolution, and pointed out how the Labour Party had acted in the Dublin Corporation in respect to the matter upon the very first opportunity after their elec-

tion in February, 1899.

Mr. Comiskey (Dublin) to a certain extent agreed with Mr. Walker. The moment the Labour representatives went into the Dublin Corporation, with the exception of their Secretary and Mr. John Gibbons, they all voted for Lord Mayor Tallon for the second year of office. However, he thought the resolution would do good,

and he would vote for it.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Dublin) said he had been of opinion from the very first that this was a resolution which should not be brought before Congress. He would, nevertheless, vote for it now, as he had voted for it every time he had the opportunity, both at past Congresses and at the Dublin Trades Council; but he held that to the local municipalities belonged the right to deal with this matter. They were assembled in a town where a mayor had been elected for no less than six terms, and no one could say that the practice had worked out injuriously to the local trades. Nor could it be contended that a two years' tenure of office by the lord mayor of Belfast would have a like effect, inasmuch as, he understood, no emoluments attached to the position in that city. But, he was bound to say, in Dublin things were different, where the citizens provided a handsome salary for maintaining civic hospitality, a considerable portion of which found its way into the pockets of the workers when a new lord mayor was installed. He held, therefore, that the trades in each

locality should deal with the matter as it affected them. It was not a question admitting of unanimity in the Congress, as different circumstances prevailed in different districts.

Alderman Kelleher (Cork) supported the resolution.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) opposed the resolution, and said it should not have been brought before Congress at all, as it looked like making work where work was unnecessary. In Belfast the Lord Mayor was paid no salary, while in Dublin he was paid a considerable sum.

On a division, the resolution was carried by 33 to 12.

ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Comiskey (Dublin), Prendergast (Limerick), and Alderman Kelleher (Cork), who had been elected to scrutinise the votes handed in for the election of eight members of the Parliamentary Committee, brought up their report.

The President announced the result of the scrutiny as follows, and declared the first-named eight elected as the members of the

Parliamentary Committee :-

indicated y committees.		
A. Bowman, Flaxdressers' Union, Belfast		37
George Leahy, P.L.G., Operative Plasterers, Dublin	1	33
John Simmons, Amal. Soc. Carpenters and Joiners		33
Walter Hudson, Amal. Soc. Railway Servants	7	28
W. J. Leahy, T.C., Operative Coopers, Dublin		28
James M'Carron, T.C., Amal. Soc. Tailors		26
Hugh M'Manus, Typographical Association	***	25
W Liddell T.C. Operative Printers Belfact		20

W. Liddell, T.C., Operative Painters, Belfast William Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), 19; Alderman William Doyle (Dublin), 19; J. Chambers, P.L.G. (Dublin), 16; James Gunn (Dublin), 16; Alderman William Cave (Cork), 14; T. Hickey (Dublin), 14; E. M'Innes, T.C. (Belfast), 13; J. Duignan (Dublin), 12; Joseph Treacy (Dublin), 11; R. S. M'Namara (Cork), 10; John Farrell, (Dublin), 9; and John Murphy (Belfast), 2.

BALANCE SHEET.

The Balance Sheet showed the gross receipts amounted to £176 12s. 7d., leaving a sum of £64 16s. 2d. on hands.

On the motion of Mr. WALKER, seconded by Councillor M'INNES.

the Balance Sheet was adopted after some discussion.

NEXT YEAR'S CONGRESS.

Mr. Walker (Belfast) proposed, and Mr. M'Connell (Belfast) seconded, that next year's Congress be held in Newry.

Aldermen CAVE and KELLEHER pointed out that the Exhibition would be held in Cork about May next year, and invited the Congress to assemble in the Southern city.

Messrs. Egan and M'Namara (Cork), M'Carron (Derry), G.

LEAHY (Dublin), and several others strongly supported Cork.

Mr. RICHARDSON read a letter from the Secretary of the Dundalk Trade and Labour Association inviting the Congress to hold the next session in that town.

Mr. WALKER (Belfast) withdrew his resolution, and it was unanimously decided to hold next year's Congress in Cork.

FEES FOR DEATH CERTIFICATES.

Councillor M'INNES moved, and Councillor LIDDELL seconded

the following resolution, which was passed:-

"That as the charges made by the Registrar for certificates of death required for the purpose of obtaining funeral benefit from registered trade unions vary from 1/- to 2/7, and as the charge for a similar certificate if required for a registered friendly society is fixed by law at 1/-, this Congress is of opinion that the charge for a certificate for a registered trade union should be reduced to the same as that of a registered friendly society, and directs the Parliamentary Committee to make the necessary representations in the proper quarter in order to bring about the required reduction."

RETURNING OFFICERS' EXPENSES.

On the motion of Mr. Hugh M'Manus, seconded by Mr. Murphy,

it was resolved :-

"That in the opinion of this Congress the time has now fully arrived when the Returning Officers' expenses in Parliamentary elections should be, as in all other public elections, defrayed out of the rates. That the Chairman and Parliamentary Committee be authorised to sign a petition to Parliament on behalf of the Congress in furtherance of this object, as also to take such other steps as they may deem advisable and the funds at their disposal permit."

ADULTERATION OF FOODS .- WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Mr. Treacy (Dublin) moved, and Councillor Gageby (Belfast)

seconded, and it was resolved :-

"(a) That this Congress is of opinion that more stringent means should be taken by the authorities to ensure the purchaser security of pure food when paying for it; and (b) that it is desirable, in the interests of the working classes, that a deterrent penalty be inflicted on shopkeepers and dealers who may be convicted of wilfully cheating by using false weights or measures."

SALE OF DRINK TO CHILDREN BILL.

Mr. Walker proposed :-

"That this meeting of the Irish Trades Union Congress desires to place on record its appreciation of the conduct of those Irish members who supported the second reading of this Bill; and hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee to issue to all Irish M.P's a circular urging their continued support to a measure which seeks to protect the young under sixteen years of age from contamination with vice in various forms, and which, if carried into law, will remove a stain upon our modern industrial life."

Mr. RICHARDSON, in seconding the resolution, mentioned with regret that some of the Irish members were obliged to vote against the Bill owing to their connection with the liquor interest. Their opposition, he pointed out, was merely a personal one, and not at all in accordance with the views of their constituents.

The resolution was carried, with one dissentient.

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

Mr. M'Manus proposed, Mr. Murphy seconded, and it was resolved:—

"That this Congress is fortified in expressing the general opinion now held by all sections of the people in Ireland, that the present system of Private Bill legislation (involving serious, costly, and totally unnecessary delay and damage to the community, and pressing heavily upon trade and agricultural industry) demands immediate reform; and that it is absolutely essential, to conduce to such reform and economy, that all necessary and relevant inquiries should be conducted locally in Ireland."

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Mr. J. T. Duignan (Dublin) proposed:-

"That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to take into consideration the question of the proper housing of the working classes; and that they press upon local authorities the necessity for generously using their powers under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, for dealing with owners of insanitary dwellings by compelling them to abolish their slum properties, and providing a sufficiency of good and wholesome dwellings wherever required; and that the Parliamentary Committee be also instructed to take action with a view of amending above Act in the direction of abolishing all restrictions limiting the compulsory land-acquiring powers of local authorities."

He commented on the fact that artisans' houses in Dublin, instead of being given to those for whom they were intended, were occupied by police and military pensioners. These houses were erected at the expense of the taxpayers, and they should be given to those for whom they were intended, namely, labourers and artisans. The housejobbers took the vast majority of the working classes into their houses. At their back they had a majority of the members of the municipal and poor-law boards, so that they were always able to get outside the Act of Parliament. It seemed they could keep the houses in any condition they liked, and that it did not much matter whether they were sanitary or insanitary.

Miss Galway (Belfast) had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, and mentioned numerous instances that had come under her notice where there was no proper sewerage and the sanitary accommodation was bad. The condition of the houses of the working classes was simply disgraceful. She thought every district in Ireland should take the question up and see that the houses were improved at once.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

VACCINATION ACT.

Mr. WALKER moved, and Mr. LENNON (Belfast) seconded: "That this Congress being of opinion that the Vaccination laws, as administered in Ireland, are unjust, coercive, and opposed to the industrial liberty of His Majesty's Irish subjects, we, therefore, urge upon the Parliamentary Committee to bring under the notice of the Government the desirability of amending this Act by the insertion of a conscience clause, making its observance optional to the individual, as is the case in England."

Mr. Richardson moved, and Mr. Nichol (Belfast) seconded, as an amendment: "That the Congress is not in a position to advise any alteration in the Vaccination laws, as administered in Ireland."

After a lengthened discussion, in which Messrs. M'CARRON, CHAMBERS, MURPHY, MOLONY, M'DEVITT, M'MANUS, DUIGNAN, and Hupson took part, the resolution was adopted by 31 to 9.

LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND PARTY POLITICS.

Mr. John Murphy moved, and Mr. Walker seconded:-

"That this Congress calls upon all elected representatives of Labour to observe the urgent necessity of abstaining (in their representative capacity) from supporting the nominee of any political party unless such nominee has been approved of by the local trades council, trade union, or other recognised Labour organisation."

Mr. G. LEAHY, Mr. CHAMBERS, and others opposed the resolution, contending that the latter portion left the door open for any body calling itself a "Labour organisation" to support whom they pleased. They had some experience of the matter in Dublin.

The mover then agreed to strike out the words "or other recognised Labour organisation," and with this amendment the motion

passed.

FEMALE FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Miss Galway (Belfast) proposed, and Miss M'Kenna (Belfast)

seconded the following resolution, which was adopted :-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the efficient inspection of the mills, factories, and warehouses of Ireland cannot be obtained without the assistance of permanent female inspectors, and we hereby instruct the Parliamentary Committee to have this question raised in the House of Commons either upon the estimates for the Home Office or by such other method as will best promote this end."

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

On the motion of Mr. TAYLOR (Belfast), seconded by Mr. LEAHY

(Dublin), the following resolution was adopted :-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, no scheme dealing with Old Age Pensions will be satisfactory to the whole of the workers in this country which seeks to subsidise existing pensions or societies, or which connects pensions with any institution that will mark them with the stigma of pauperism. The only legislation that will solve the problem presented by age and poverty in modern industrial life is that which recognises a pension as a civic right which may be claimed by any citizen on reaching a given age. That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take steps to make this question of such prominence that it will become one of the most pressing subjects at the next General Election."

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. A. TAYLOR moved, and Mr. RICHARDSON seconded :-

"Omit '15/-' on last line of Standing Order 2; insert instead '10/-'; and add 'and the affiliation fee for each trade or labour body shall be at the rate of one penny per member per annum, except trades councils, whose minimum annual affiliation fee shall be £2, payable at least fourteen days before the holding of Congress."

The motion was rejected by 32 to 12.

Mr. WALKER moved, and Mr. M'DEVITT seconded that Standing

Order 2 should read :-

"The Congress shall consist of delegates who are or have been bona-fide workers at the trade they represent, or are legal members of trade societies. But no person can be a delegate to the Trades Union Congress unless he is actually working at the trade he represents (or represents at the trades council or similar body which sends such delegate), or is a permanent paid working official of his trade union, trades council, or similar bodies, by whatever name they may for the time being be known. The expenses, etc."

The motion was rejected by 31 to 5.

Mr. NICHOL moved, and Councillor M'INNES seconded, to add

to Standing Order 7:-

"The Standing Orders of Congress shall be printed along with the Agenda Paper and the Report of Proceedings of Congress."

The motion was adopted.

Ald. Kelleher moved, and Councillor M'Carthy seconded:—
"Omit from 'and in no case,' on line 13, to 'allowed to sit,' on line 14 of Standing Order 9; and insert instead 'nor shall Dublin or Belfast have more than two representatives, or any other city, town, or district more than one representative, provided always that a sufficiency of qualified candidates are nominated for election.'"

The motion was rejected by the casting vote of the Chairman. Mr. John Murphy moved and Mr. J. T. Duignan seconded the

adoption of the following as a new Standing Order:-

"The Standing Orders of Congress shall not be suspended unless previous intimation shall be given to the Standing Orders Committee, and the motion agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present."

The motion was adopted.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. Taylor (Belfast) proposed and Mr. Richardson (Dublin) seconded a warm vote of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation of Sligo for their kindness in giving the Town Hall for the Congress.

Passed unanimously.

Alderman Cave (Cork) proposed, and Councillor M'Carron (Derry) seconded, and it was resolved:—

"That the best thanks of the Congress be tendered to the Sligo

Reception Committee."

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) proposed, and Mr. Simmons (Dublin) seconded a vote of thanks to the Press, which was passed unanimously. It was responded to by Mr. J. Stanley Hamill (Belfast Evening

Telegraph).

Councillor W. J. Leahy (Dublin), in proposing a vote of thanks to the President, said it was the duty of the delegates to accord him their heartiest thanks for the brilliant manner in which he had discharged his duties as Chairman of that important Congress. He had no doubt but that the vote of thanks would be passed with acclamation.

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast), in seconding, said no man could take exception to the impartial and fair manner in which Mr. Bowman had placed his views before the country through the Press.

The resolution was passed amid loud applause.

The President, in returning thanks, said he had done his best to discharge his duties without fear, favour, or affection. He had some little experience of public affairs, and he had striven earnestly to prevent friction or the introduction of anything tending to defeat, but had welcomed everything calculated to unite, the workers of Ireland. If he had succeeded, as their resolution induced him to believe he had, he was satisfied.

This concluded the business of the Congress.



STANDING ORDERS.

- 1. Opening Proceedings.—The Congress shall assemble at 9.30 a.m. (except the first day, when the proceedings shall commence at 11 a.m.) prompt, adjourn at 1 p.m., reassemble at 2 p.m., and adjourn at 5 p.m. each day.
- 2. Delegates' Qualifications.—The Congress shall consist of Delegates who are or have been bona-fide workers, and are legal members of trade societies, and who shall have worked or be working at the trade they represent, or members of trades councils or similar bodies, by whatever name they may for the time being be known. The expenses of such Delegates must be defrayed by the association they represent. No Delegate shall leave the Congress during the progress of business without the consent of the Chairman. The fee for each Delegate shall be 15/-
- 3. Standing Orders Committee.—A Standing Orders Committee of five shall be elected from the Members of Congress, whose duties shall be to verify and report upon the credentials of the Delegates, see to the proper conduct of the business of Congress, and have control of the distribution of all literature, introduction of deputations, and other special business not provided for in these Orders.
- 4. Mode of Yoting—Tellers.—The Voting upon all matters shall be by show of hands. Tellers shall be appointed at the opening of the Congress, whose ruling as to numbers shall be final. In cases where the Tellers disagree, the Chairman shall order a re-count.
- 5. Resolutions.—RESOLUTIONS intended for the Congress, with the name of the proposer, shall be in the hands of the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee at least SIX WEEKS before the meeting of Congress in Whit week, and shall be at once printed and sent out by the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee to the various trade and labour societies and trade councils in Ireland.
- 6. Amendments to Resolutions.—Amendments to the propositions on the Agenda, written and signed in the following manner, viz.:—"Amendment to Resolution No. 3, to be proposed by Mr. John Smith, Belfast," must be sent to the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee at least ONE CLEAR WEEK before the meeting of Congress, and shall be printed and in the hands of the Delegates, along with the Parliamentary Committee's Report, on the assembling of Congress, before the commencement of business.

- 7. Resolutions and Amendments.—All Resolutions and Amendments must be endorsed by and sent through the authorised officials of trade or labour organisations or trades councils sending Delegates to Congress. The names, addresses, and societies represented by the Delegates shall be printed and ready for distribution at the commencement of Congress. The Standing Orders shall be printed along with the Agenda Paper and the Report of the Proceedings of Congress.
- 8. Limitation of Speeches.—The mover of a resolution or amendment, and each succeeding speaker, shall be allowed five minutes each. No one shall speak more than once upon each resolution or amendment except the mover of the original motion, who shall be given an opportunity to reply. No second amendment or rider to an original proposition shall be put to a vote until the first amendment is disposed of.
- 9. Parliamentary Committee .- A Parliamentary Committee of nine, including Secretary, shall be elected on the last day of the Congress, whose duties shall be-(1) to endeavour to give practical effect to the resolutions of Congress; (2) to watch all legislative measures directly affecting the question of Labour in Ireland: (3) to initiate such legislative and other action as Congress may direct; and (4) generally to support the Parliamentary Committee of the United Trades Congress upon all questions affecting the workers of the United Kingdom. The Committee to meet quarterly, or at such times as, in the opinion of the Chairman and Secretary, the exigencies of the Labour movement in Ireland call for immediate action, and shall present a report of their proceedings to the next Congress. No candidate shall be eligible for election on the Parliamentary Committee unless he is a Delegate from his own trade society, labour union, or trades council. In no case shall more than one member of the same trade or occupation, or more than one representative of the same trades council, be allowed to sit, but this condition shall not apply to the election of Secretary. The Delegates' fees to Congress (after deducting actual expenses) shall go to the fund for defraying the expenses of the Parliamentary Committee, to be supplemented, if necessary, by contributions from the trades councils and trade societies of Ireland. A printed Balance Sheet, duly certified by the Auditors, to be presented to each Delegate on the second day of meeting.
- 10. Parliamentary Committee's Report.—The Congress having been duly opened, the Parliamentary Committee shall present their Report for the past year, which shall be laid on the table for discussion, after the disposal of which their tenure of office shall terminate.
- 11. Labour Meeting.—That at least one General Labour Meeting shall be held, under the auspices of the Parliamentary Committee, in each town during the sittings of the Annual Congress—the local trades council to render such assistance in arranging for halls, advertising. &c., as shall be requisite.
- 12. Suspending Standing Orders.—Standing Orders shall not be suspended unless previous intimation shall have been given to Standing Orders Committee, and the motion agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates present.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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- Bakers', Belfast, Society Murray Davis, T.C., Garfield St.; Thomas McConnell, ditto
- Bakers, Dublin Operative—James Gunn, Bakers' Hall, Upper Bridge St.; Joseph McQuillan, ditto
- Bakers, Irish, National Federal Union—M. PRENDERGAST, T.C., Gen. Sec., Limerick
- Belfast and District United Trades and Labour Council—Wm. Nichol, 8 Dublin St.; Wm. Walker, P.L.G., 83 Stratheden St.
- Belfast Municipal Employes and other Workers' Society—A. G. BOYD, 4 Coolderry St.; ALEX. BOWMAN, 62 Bray St.
- Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders—Michael Barrett, 36 Gray St., Dublin
- Bookbinders' Consolidated Union, Dublin Branch—Andrew Moore, 4 Aungier St.
- Bottlemakers, Irish Glass—James Nolan, Ringsend, Dublin; James Murray, 68 Thorncastle St., Ringsend, Dublin
- Brassfounders' Finishers, Dublin Operative—John Holloway, 13 St. Joseph's Place, Dorset St.
- Brushmakers, United Society of, Dublin Division-John Molony, Trades Hall, Capel St.
- Builders' Labourers' Benevolent Union, Sligo-John Clancy, Holborn Street
- Cabinetmakers, Alliance, Dublin-D. MULCAHY, 62 Mary Street
- Carpenters, Amalgamated, Dublin No. 3—WILLIAM MCKEVITT, 15 St. Joseph's Road
- Carpenters, Amalgamated, Dublin No. 5—WILLIAM DOYLE, Ald., 40 Belvidere Road; E. J. O'NEILL, 35 Lower Gloucester St.
- Carpenters, Amalgamated, Sligo Branch-W. Costello, Victoria Line
- Coachmakers, United Kingdom Society, Cork Branch MICHAEL EGAN, 2 Marina Villas, Albert Road
- Coopers, Regular Operative, Dublin—Patrick J. Quinn, 9 Merchants' Quay; W. J. Leahy, T.C., 25 Blackhall St.
- Cork Trades and Labour Council W. Cave, Ald., Mechanics' Hall, Grattan St.; J. Kelleher, Ald., ditto
- Dublin United Trades Council and Labour League John Simmons, Trades Hall, Capel St.; Thomas Hickey, ditto; E. L. Richardson, ditto; J. T. Duignan, ditto
- Flaxdressers' Union-ROBERT GAGERY, T.C., Engineers' Hall, Belfast
- Hackle and Gill Makers, Belfast-Robert Herson, 7 Columbia St.
- Limerick Congregated Trades Mathew McInerny, Bank Place; Mathew Harvey, ditto
- Linenlappers', Irish, Trade Union ALEX. TAYLOR, 99 Donegall St., Belfast
- National Amalgamated Union of Labour (Irish Membership), Belfast - Edward McInnes, T.C., 57 London St.; William Wilson, 140 Earl St.; Robert Gilmour, 85 Northumberland St.

- Painters and Decorators, National Amalgamated, Dublin No. 1
 —JOSEPH TREACY, 61 Mary St.
- Painters and Decorators, National Amalgamated, Dublin No. 2
 —ALFRED CLARKE, 2 Cross Kevin St.
- Painters, Metropolitan House, Dublin—Jos. Bermingham, 27 Aungier St.; John Doyle, ditto; Cornelius Comiskey, ditto
- Painters and Decorators, Operative House and Ship, Belfast—WILLIAM LIDDELL, T.C., 61 Great George's St.
- Painters, Amalgamated House and Ship, Sligo-Jas. KIVLEHEN, Wolfe Tone St.
- Plasterers, Operative—George Leahy, P.L.G., 23 Blackhall St., Dublin; PATRICK MALONE, 10 Charlotte St.
- Printers, Dublin Branch of Lithographic-J. FARRELL, 150 N. Strand
- Purveyors' Assistants' Association, Dublin—Jas. O'Connor, National School, Ringsend
- Railway Servants, Amalgamated Society of, Cork Branch No. 2
 —Thomas O'Connell, 9 Mary St.
 - Ditto, Manorhamilton Branch-Michael Travis
 - Ditto, Dublin Branch—Walter Hudson (Irish Secretary), 15 Synnott Place
- Saddlers and Harness Makers, Dublin Branch—J. Chambers, P.L.G. 27 St. Ignatius Road, Drumcondra
- Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, National Amalgamated Union of—C. O'LYHANE, 29 Sunday's-Well Avenue, Cork
- Sligo United Trades Council—Patrick J. Farrell, John St.; Francis F. Gallagher, Harmony Hill.
- Smiths', United of Ireland, Trade Union—Jeremiah Kennedy, 193 Phibsborough Road, Dublin
- Stationary Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union, Dublin-John Ryan, 59 Lower Dominick St.
- Stonecutters' Union of Ireland—Jas. Short, Dublin; R. S. McNamara, Stonecutters' Hall, Douglas Street, Cork
- Tailors, Amalgamated John McMahon, 28 St. Alban's Road, Dublin; James McCarron, T.C., 2 Stanley Terrace, Londonderry
- Tailors, Amalgamated, Belfast District—Daniel McDevitt, 8 North Queen St.; Samuel Lennon, 9 Bootle St., Crumlin Road
- Textile Operatives' Society of Ireland—Miss McKenna, 34 Linden St., Beliast; Miss M. Galway, 85 Leeson St., ditto
- Tipperary, North, Trade and Labour Association—Denis McCarthy, U.C., P.L.G., Thurles
- Tramway, Hackney Carriage Employes, and Horsemen in General, Amalgamated Association of—Peter Mason, 168 Sandy Row, Belfast
- Typographical Association—Hugh McManus, 14 Ardmoulin St., Belfast
- Typographical Association, Belfast Branch—Samuel Monro, 20 College St.; John Murphy, ditto
- Typographical Provident Society, Dublin—Thomas Collins, 33 Denmark St.; Charles Kavanagh, ditto

EIGHTH IRISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS. - BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS. To Balance, Typographical Assoc. (per Mr. A. W. Jones) , Trade and Labour Electoral Assoc., Dundalk Amal. Soc. Railway Servants, Mullingar, Stonecutters' Union of Ireland (Cork Branch Amal. Soc. Ry. Servants (per Mr. Bell, M.P.) Dublin Bakers, Irish Federal Union Bakers, Irish Glass Bottlemakers, Irish Glass Bottlemakers, Typographical Association (Limerick Branch Do. (Derry Branch), Do. (Belfast Branch) Do. (Belfast Branch), Dublin Operative Plasterers, Tinsmiths, etc., Dublin, Belfast and Dublin Loco. Engine-drivers, Carpet-planners, Dublin, United Brushmakers, Dublin, Belfast Painters, Dublin Trades and Labour Council, N. A. Union of Labour, Saddle and Harness Makers, Dublin, Engine, Crane, and Fire Men, Belfast, United Kingdom Society Coachmakers, Amalgamated Society Tailors, Dublin, Do. (Emerald Branch), Metropolitan House Painters, Dublin, Dublin Typographical Provident Society, Amalgamated Society Tailors (per Mr. Flynn), Belfast Coopers, Seventy-three Delegates' Fees, at 15/-, Sale of Congress Reports, Dublin Reception Committee (Congress Repo	0 10 0 0 0 0 0 5 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 2 6 1 1 0 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 2 6 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0	50	3 4 5 0 8 8	, Hallkeeper , Mr. John Simmons, Secretarial duties , Mr. Thomas Cassidy, do. , Auditors , O'Donoghue's Printing Account , Do. do. (Congress Reports) , Doyle's Printing Account , Deputation to Sligo—Messrs. Bowman and Richardson , Treasurer , Deputation to Master Tailors re Dispute — Messrs.	8 14 0 0 4 4 2 10 0 10 1 0 0 10 1 3 0 0 9 12 1 12 5 15 2 2	8 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 5 0 6 6 6 0
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We Certify that we have examined Books, Receipts, and signed Vouchers connected with Balance Sheet, and find the same correct.

WILLIAM WALKER C. COMISKEY

Auditors.





THE NINTH ANNUAL

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

WILL BE HELD

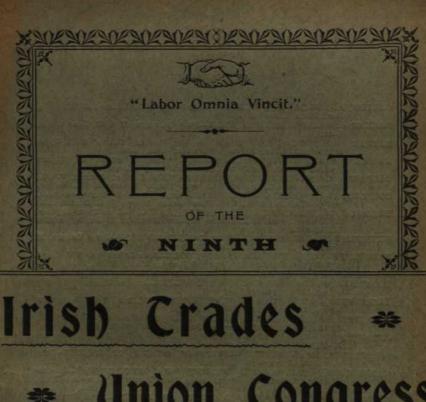
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ON

WHIT-MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY,

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Union Congres

HELD IN THE

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS. CORK.

MAY 19th, 20th and 21st, 1902.

Published by Authority of the Congress and the Parliamentary Committee.

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